



Meeting Minutes

Sunday, October 26th, 2025

Location: Dunn Brothers (first floor meeting room)

Attendance: Kerri Seemann, Steve Erler, Bob Tacke, Jim Marrs

The meeting began at 1PM.

Old & New Business

Flyers: Bob requested a QR code that links to the Venmo account to add to flyers in Chatham so that people can support our efforts even if they don't want to volunteer for buckthorn removal. Kerri requested advice on style/content for flyers to educate park visitors about the planting in Cummings Park.

Action Item (AI): Kerri will work on generating a QR code for the Venmo account.

GoFundMe Update: Kerri reported that the fundraising brought in ~\$140 (minus fees) that went towards the \$202 seed order in December. Also, Kerri reported that someone on the email list said that she had mailed a check for AHG to the Arden Hills Foundation.

Action Item (AI): Steve will contact the Foundation to ask if they received a check for us.

Volunteers: We have not received much feedback on how best to support volunteers. SJ (PTRC Chair) suggested that the PTRC might be able to help recruit volunteers for AHG. Kerri is considering having Weed ID training events in the spring.

Buckthorn Management: Kerri provided a brief description of the biochar kilns observed at Floral Park in November. There was a lengthy discussion of the pros/con of different approaches of handling brush (biochar kilns, volunteer-led brush pile burns, brush chipping, and brush *smashing* (for lack of a better term)). The biggest advantages of the biochar kilns is that they don't produce large amounts of smoke or flying embers and don't result in a burn scar (where plants won't grow for years). The disadvantage is likely cost and getting it approved by the City.

Action Item (AI): Steve will request biochar kiln cost information from Becca.

There was also discussion of the progress made at Chatham and how/where we'd like to focus our efforts in the coming year. New seedlings in the aspen grove should not interfere with any brush-cutting that might need to be done. There are areas that should be seeded in the spring (if possible) with the 22# of Virginia wild rye that remain.

Action Item (AI): Kerri will contact Jessica to request support with spraying and more grass seed in 2026

Website: There was discussion of website content. Jim requested information be added for residents interesting in finding seed sources. There was also a request to add more visuals showing our progress.

Action Item (AI): Kerri will try to make improvements to the website.

The meeting ended at ~2:20 PM

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, March 29th 1-3pm: Dunn Brothers (first floor)