

March 13, 2018

EC Proposal for the Creation of a Management Mechanism for the Glass Farm Wetlands and Prairie

The Environmental Commission of the Village collaborated with Tecumseh Land Trust to re-naturalize the wetlands and a prairie on the eastern edge of the Village-owned Glass Farm property. This work was done in part through the use of funds from a Clean Ohio grant. As that work draws to a close and the grant commitments finalized, it is time to decide how to manage the 8+ acre area on an ongoing basis.

Below are the recommendations from the Environmental Commission to the Yellow Springs Village Council:

- Empower the Beaver Management Task Force (BMTF) to take on these duties under the joint auspices of the Village Manager and the Environmental Commission, following the approach laid out in the Beaver Management Plan.
- Membership is recommended to include a minimum of 3 neighbors, at least one EC member, at least one local teacher or professor, the Village Manager or her designee, and the Council liaison to the Environmental Commission for a total of 7 to 9 members.

The current membership of the BMTF includes:

1. Becca Eastman McKinney Middle School teacher; neighbor
 2. Tom Dietrich EC member; neighbor
 3. Rick Donahoe neighbor
 4. Vickie Hennessy Chair; biologist
 5. Brian Kot Biology professor Antioch College
 6. Marianne MacQueen Council liaison
 7. Chad Runyon neighbor
 8. Bettina Solas Stolsenberg EC member; neighbor
 9. Require one additional member to serve as a representative of village staff (replacement for Jason Hamby) *Will be recommended by Village Manager, Patti Bates.
- The purpose of this new committee will be to manage and maintain the 8+ acres zoned conservation at the Glass Farm including the wetlands, potential beavers, the prairie, and surrounding terrestrial habitat. This will include such tasks as:
 1. Maintaining the prairie by annual mowing (to be done by village staff) in early spring.
 2. Ongoing removal of invasive species, i.e. honeysuckle, Callery pear, using specialized tools and avoiding herbicide use.
 3. Mowing primary paths as needed.
 4. Cleaning and maintaining benches and signage.
 5. Maintaining beaver flow devices as needed.
 6. Managing beaver related tree damage, flooding, stagnant water and mosquitoes.
 7. Encouraging and working with Yellow Springs Schools, as well as Antioch College, to utilize this space for the study of wetland conservation, wildlife and species diversity, aquatic parameters, and other scientific investigation.
 8. Starting with baseline studies, work with Yellow Springs Schools and Antioch College to maintain a record of data collected in the wetlands and surrounding region over time to support its ongoing evolution and further research

The committee will meet on an as needed basis but at least twice a year.