

Chair Tom McGlinchey convenes the meeting at 7:10 pm.

## 1. Introduction by the Chair, Tom McGlinchey

## 2. Program: "Creating & Maintaining a Native Plant Garden" w/ Anthony Marinello of Dropseed Native Landscapes and the Long Island Native Plant Initiative"

Links supplied by Anthony:

Dropseed Native Landscapes:

- [www.dropseednativelandscapesli.com](http://www.dropseednativelandscapesli.com)
- [anthony@dropseednativelandscapesli.com](mailto:anthony@dropseednativelandscapesli.com)
- [www.facebook.com/groups/longislandnativeplants](https://www.facebook.com/groups/longislandnativeplants)
- 
- Long Island Native Plant Initiative/ Long Island Invasive Species Management Area:
- [www.linpi.org](http://www.linpi.org)
- [www.liisma.org](http://www.liisma.org)
- <https://www.nyimainvasives.org/>
- [info@linpi.org](mailto:info@linpi.org)
- 
- Online Databases:
- <https://newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu>
- <http://bonap.net/napa>
- <https://wildflower.org>
- 
- Names of New York: Discovering the City's Past, Present, and Future Through Its Street Names event: [https://bit.ly/NamesofNewYork\\_2\\_22](https://bit.ly/NamesofNewYork_2_22)

## 3. Secretary – approval of prior meeting minutes, Sep 30, 2021

Motion to accept the minutes as distributed: moved by Steve Walter; seconded by Robin Spiegelman.

## 4. NE Queens Administrator's (Matt Symons) comments

- **Oakland Lake:** We blacktopped over the existing damaged area from a few years back, which is a temporary fix until the planned capital project can proceed (currently in design). The damaged area at the west (inlet) end was submitted for FEMA reimbursement, which will take time to go through. The capital projects tracker links are included in this and subsequent bullets. [Oakland Lake Pathways Reconstruction: NYC Parks \(nycgovparks.org\)](https://www.nycgovparks.org)

- In other paving news, we will have the **multi-purpose play areas at Oakland Gardens (PS203) and Alley Park (PS213)** renovated, along with the Alley Springfield parking lot. This is currently in procurement through July 2022. [Queens Pavement Areas Reconstruction: NYC Parks \(nycgovparks.org\)](#)
- **APEC** is still in progress, expected completion of July 2022. [Alley Pond Environmental Center Reconstruction: NYC Parks \(nycgovparks.org\)](#)
- **Vanderbilt Motor Parkway** had the ribbon cut last month and we look forward to the Phase II renovation, which is scheduled to be done with procurement by April 2022. We installed 4 of the 9 interpretive signs between Winchester Boulevard and Springfield Boulevard and will install the remainder once Phase II is complete, hopefully by late Spring 2023 based on the current projection. [Vanderbilt Motor Parkway Reconstruction Phase 2: NYC Parks \(nycgovparks.org\)](#)
- **Reforestation near Northern Boulevard/234 Street:** A lot of work has been done since June to remove mountains of mugwort and invasive shrubs and vines in the project area north of the berm and large areas on the western side of the park south of the berm. Patches of phragmites in the northeastern corner of the project site were also cut and treated. Initial cut-stump work of cutting and applying herbicide to porcelain berry and bittersweet vines, multiflora rose, buckthorn, honeysuckle, and small mulberry and ailanthus trees was completed in November. We expect follow-up treatments will be coming up before the end of February. The contractor also completed some site clearing and removal of hazard trees due to the storms that came through this past fall/winter. The contractor will begin invasive tree removals north of the berm end of this week/start of next week. The contractor will be planting three-inch caliper trees around the vernal pools this coming Fall. Planting events are also planned for Spring and Fall 2023.
- **Trail interns/seasonal employees:** We currently have two trail maintenance interns at the park, which is helpful. They are cutting back invasives, maintaining trail markers, identifying/marketing trip hazards, mapping defects, etc. We may have funding to hire at least one seasonal park worker to continue this work come Spring.
- There is now a **COVID test van** at the Alley Springfield parking lot (this moved from Telephone Playground on Bell Boulevard). 7 days/week, 8am-7pm.
- We have been rekindling our relationship with Queensborough Community College and had been planning a MLK Day volunteer project, but the weather caused us to cancel. We will find a Spring date to reschedule.

## 5. Old Business – committees reports (see pages 4-6)

- a. FoAPP Chair
- b. Finance
- c. Program

## 6. New Business---

- a. Report by Conservation Committee (Mike Feller)-
  - i. He has been meeting with Trudy, Robin and Alicia concerning expanding the pollinator garden in Upper Alley.
  - ii. Having seen a hummingbird nest in the park, he suggested adding more plants that the hummingbird would like.
  - iii. He has received a good response concerning a proposed location for an osprey platform. Ospreys nest in March, so timing is a crucial factor.
- b. Remarks by membership
  - iv. Margaret suggested scheduling a public walk to show off the interactive signs once they have all been installed. Tom asked Margaret to talk to Serena, Program Committee Chair, about possibility setting this up.
  - v. New member Jocelyn Perez introduced herself. Through her company, Herban Garden, she does plants walks, among other things. Additionally, she is a Super Steward and Trail Maintainer for a trail in Forest Park.
  - vi. Tom's closing remarks – He mentioned the clean water initiative that includes Alley Creek. Also, one of our members, Laurie Gold, is planning a mediative walk-through Alley Creek Park in March or April.

## 7. Reminders

Register early if you are interested in NYC Parks Stewardship project on Saturday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 10a-12p. It is a combination bird walk by Audubon Society and removal of invasive plants. Email Lorraine if you need link.

## 7. Next Meeting scheduled: February 24, 2022

Attached: "Wildlife Friendly Maintenance," by Anthony Marinello

### Attended

#### Members (14)

Alicia E.	Seena S.
Annabel B.	Serena L.
Dit C.	Steve W.
Jocelyn P.	Tom M.
Lorraine E.	Trudy H.
Margaret B.	
Mike A.	NYC Parks (2)
Mike F.	Matt Symons
Robin S.	Mike Kuchinskas.

Presenter:  
Anthony Marinello,

Visitors (4):  
Laura Stucin  
Marot Gramer  
Reshma Bharne  
Susan P.

Minutes of Friends of Alley Pond Park  
Thursday, January 27, 2022  
Via Zoom

Chair's Report (Tom McGlinchey)

Happy Winter to all!

It has been an active season. We have relied on the events sponsored by NYC Parks Stewardship for our FoAPP events over the last couple of months. I hope everyone has registered for the February hike, which will be an Audubon hike followed by some invasives removal. January's event was well attended despite a frigid day, and we met some of the QCC Students accompanied by Francesca, who are interested in continued stewardship work. Your Officers and Executive Committee have remained active.

QCC sponsors a program called C-STEP in support of students studying the sciences. It is a statewide program. We will find a way to work with them and the Super Steward programs and Matt Symons, of course.

NYC DEP has nearly completed its work improving the area across from the original APEC. It can be visited, but the native grasses that were planted are still establishing themselves. The DEP commissioner wishes to update the community once more for a symposium of Clean Water concerns to be hosted at QCC, but with some of the leg work in planning given to us. Last time APEC was more hands on, but due to the diminution of Staff, cannot do this to the same extent. We'll form a planning committee.

Our interest in planting a large number of daffodils in November has sparked some interest in developing more native gardens in that area of the Springfield corner of the Park. We will see if we can develop then a garden committee for that area. Those interested, please let me know at [tom0153@hotmail.com](mailto:tom0153@hotmail.com) .

Our Programming and Conservation Committees have been fully active. All events held have been very successful. Be sure to invite others to join our group. Treasury and Finance continue to do their thing. With an expanded committee, we can look at some fundraising - so we need to set goals and objectives and ask our community to help.

All Committees will need new members to put some Spring in our step over the next couple of months. Please consider joining a committee, even if you don't think it is "your thing." The success of the Committees springs from the spirit of volunteerism to help our FoAPP grow, and improve and maintain the Park, and to see that we continue to find ways to perform in a way that meets our mission. Some things can't get done without more active members.

Our partnership with Parks continues to be fruitful, and we thank Park Administration for their full support, the Super Steward and stewardship programs, and indeed, all of you for making things happen.

Minutes of Friends of Alley Pond Park  
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Let us do all the hoping that we can that we will be able to hold "live" meetings where we get to see each other's faces in a safe manner. Until then, thank you for your patience in dealing with all these virtual communications, yet still get the work done.

By the way, I get feedback from many folks, "oh, I've heard about FoAPP." What we are getting done gets noticed.

We said goodbye to exiting Councilman Grodenchik, and we have welcomed new Councilwoman Linda Lee. She is encouraging us to find our way to incorporation so that she can give us her full support and provide funds directly for FoAPP activities in the APP. She lives in Oakland Gardens and is very familiar with the Park. A social worker, she was on Community Board 11 for a few years and has landed with quite splash in the City Council. When you see her, be sure to say "Hi, I'm from FoAPP!"

Enjoy the presentation from Anthony Marinello. Anthony is the owner of Dropseed Native Landscapes, a business that he started in 2017. Dropseed Native Landscapes offers ecological gardening services by utilizing Native Plants that have evolved in our Region for thousands of years. Native Plants support the local ecosystem from the ground up while simultaneously beautifying your yard. He has been active in the Long Island Native Plant Initiative and is now on the Board. Active in social media, he is a perfect fit to be their Secretary with all his correspondents. He supports their native plant sales, which the group grows from seed in their greenhouse. They undertake some major projects across Long Island. Anthony has earned a Permaculture Design Certificate through the Center for Bioregional Living.

Thanks again.

### Finance Committee (Lorraine, Member; on behalf of Dit, Committee Chair)

#1 Balance in our fiscal sponsorship account \$4,651.66.  
Restricted: \$2,087.58 (\$1,087.58 + \$1,000)  
Unrestricted: \$2,564.08

#2 Two open grants – We are currently working on closing out the grants. We cannot request another capacity fund grant until this one has been closed.

a. **Capacity Fund Grant (#3)** (approved June 2021), \$1,200

Approved for printing of an updated brochure, printing of a tree brochure; annual zoom account, pencil giveaways, megaphone, and lock for storage box. Only paid for zoom account \$112,42 with a balance of \$1,087.58.

b. **NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund** (approved Sep 2021), \$1,000

Approved for tools (\$850), tarps (\$100), and additional storage box (\$50). We are waiting for the amount to be added to our fiscal account.

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New members since our last meeting (Sep 30<sup>th</sup>): Jocelyn Perez, John Virzi, and Seena Sweet. If I missed anyone, please let Lorraine know.

### Program Committee (Serena Losonczy, Chair)

On November 13, we had another successful stewardship event, removing invasives around the Yellow Trail. Many young trees were saved through our effort. More work remains to be done, especially to free some large trees from vines.

The turnout was strong, and we were joined by a few members of Queensborough Community College, including an environmental educator, Marie-Francesca Berrouet, who has joined FOAPP and agreed to lead some environmental walks. We can organize more events involving the QCC students in the future as there is institutional interest.

### Potential Future Events in addition to Invasives removal and litter clean-ups:

- Winter - "Alley Giant Hike" led by Woo – winter is best because the trails are narrow
- Warmer weather - Meditation Walk with Laurie Gold – with plogging
- Environmental walk with Marie-Francesca Berrouet
- Douglas McKay Trail/Windmill Pond Trails Clearing (old APEC location)
- Birding walk with Woo or Ian Resnick
- Pollinator garden upkeep
- More Yellow Trail invasives removal
- Combined event with Kym Buzdygon of the Big Reuse to demonstrate the benefits of compost and encourage sign-ups for curbside composting, Available options are:
  - A Paper Lawn and Leaf Bag Giveaway event. We can set up a small table with paper lawn and leaf bags to give away to community members as well as information about Curbside Composting. These events should take place during the month of November up to the first week of December.
  - A Compost Giveaway event. We will coordinate with you to give away 1 lb. bags of compost! Help close the loop by putting the compost created from DSNY's collection of yard debris and food scraps to good use in your community.
  - A Street Tree Care event. Nourish the soil around the trees in your neighborhood. Our team will work with you to identify sites and coordinate the event; equipment and compost is provided.