Fen volunteers have continued to work on a weekly basis for a few hours each week. The work over the last two months has mainly involved removal of invasive plants, including creeping Charlie and thistles. Also herbicide treatment of buckthorn re-sprouts has commenced in areas where buckthorn was mechanical removed and the stumps were not treated with herbicide at the time of removal. The volunteers have continued with cutting up downed trees and branches in the Fen that have resulted from storm damage.

Four dying or distressed trees in the Fen area were identified by the Village of Trout Valley Arborist as posing threat to people using the Fen area. These trees were a dying willow tree behind the gazebo that could fall on the gazebo and three basswood trees next to the Fen steps on Turkey Run that a slowing being uprooted due maybe caused by root damage when the curbs were installed along Turkey Run. Red Oak submitted a bid of $2,100 to remove these trees. The Forest Board reviewed and authorized this work to proceed. The remaining balance in the Fen 2020/21 budget is $2,059. I will make a motion to allocate the $59 overspend to be charged against the Community Development Fund’s miscellaneous line item.

Weeding of the pollinator gardens is an ongoing project. The plants in the pollinator garden at the Lodge are large enough to be divided. These plants will be divided next spring and a new pollinator planted area will be establish with the plants that have been divided on the land the Village leases adjacent to Country Commons Road

The areas that were sown with wildflower seeds last year are being overtaken by broad leaf weeds. Treatment with herbicide to kill the weeds will be completed and additional seeding will be sown this winter.

During the drought the Fen volunteers tried to keep up with watering the trees that were planted last year. Unfortunately a few trees became distressed and lost leaves due to insufficient water. Hopefully these trees will recover next year.

The Fen volunteers, with the help of Chris Burkhart TV Maintenance, hauled and spread mulch around all the trees that were planted last year.

David Hall