Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting, 4/20/2020

In attendance: Stacey Wildberger, Marita Roos, Phil Ourisson, Brad Knopf, Larry Jennings, Bill Rappoport, Karen Minor, Brad Hill, Neil Macindoe

1. Treasurers Report: Paid $300 for the plants to Goshen Farm. Balances: General Fund $11,600; Grants $1,600.

2. Website: Phil added the last blog from Stacey, and a write up on the Habitat Hero, which got a lot of hits. A lot of the community know her, so a lot of people were clicking on it.

3. The last meeting's minutes were officially approved, pending the last final changes Larry and Phil sent.

4. All events in April mentioned in last month's CCC meeting got canceled. Wait on rescheduling on Chris Pax speaking event until we know what is going on with the clubhouse. The Cape quarterly meeting tomorrow got postponed. Stay tuned for July quarterly meeting.

5. Regarding the ravine where the step pools were recently done by the County, there was a question as to whether a pumping station will be added there. Neil will ask Beau about it.

6. The step pools by the ball fields: Brad K sent out an email to Erik Michelsen and got a positive response, but we will kick it down the road until a later time. The County wants to sustain the same argument about underground water keeping the step pools filled at all times. The step pools by the fire house are completely dry. The ball field never gets dry. We need to time our meeting with Erik for a dry period weather-wise.

7. Stacey attended the Board of Governors meeting last Monday. Her summary: There was an issue with the Main Beach restoration. The Board will let us know new information as they can, as it is a legal matter. The Board was fortunately able to get an injunction to halt further construction. In the meantime, the Lake Claire project is progressing. Different grants are being applied for. The loan we got is a draw loan, so no interest is accruing. Larry asked if they mentioned that final drawings are posted on the website. Neil is not aware of that, but he said things are changing on a daily basis. The Cape got a $50K grant from Fish & Wildlife for Lake Claire. Little by little, the waterfront is getting closer to private property lines. The Lake Claire project will probably start late this year or early next year. On July 4th, the parade is cancelled. They still want to do the Strawberry Festival so see what happens with that. Revenue is down from lost rentals, so the Strawberry Festival is a positive thing to look forward to. The Cape Cleanup will be on Sept 18th & 19th.

8. Weed Warriors: We got a little stalled, but last Wednesday, we had a nice turn out: Stacey, Bill, Stacey's sister Ali, Katie Kelly, Karen, and a 7th grader who volunteered to weed. The Bushkiller is starting to appear. Stacey suggested that if our daily exercise involves taking walks, to do that in the Serene Ravine with a garbage bag. On some Wednesday, we can do a cleanup at the rain garden at the Little Magothy. The golden ragwort is looking great there. The North Creek order will be arriving some time this week. Planting this Saturday from 9-11 am at the Serene Ravine. 96 Carex coming & 2 more packs of Packera Aurea.
9. Last month, we discussed the $300 contribution for the Goshen Farm pond. Larry sent us an email with info on the project and a plant list. Larry will pick up the order from Adkins Arboretum. There are North Creek plants 296 of them, and 30 from Adkins. He needs to figure out where to put the plants around the pond. No date yet. He can email a group when he's going to do plantings, one area at a time. He will probably try to get some Pickerelweed planted in there next week.

10. The Harvest Bash is 6 months down the road. Phil reached out to Mary. She had a few ideas. Phil gave some background: One of the Cape residents works at the County's food license office came to Phil with concerns. If we buy food from companies, we must serve it with shields or have someone serving each plate. That's a problem. After talking to Mary, we may need to have it as a private party and invite people on our contact list and not make it open to the general public. Brad K noted that having a private party would defeat our goal of using the Harvest Bash as an outreach event, so he suggested to choose the right caterer willing to minimize our costs and whose beliefs are appropriate to our goals, and we just bite the bullet and pay them. A caterer would both cater and serve the food, buffet-style. We liked the idea of supporting a local business so we would need to look into pricing. Larry suggested talking to Graul's to consider selling the bags and charging more than what they cost and use it as funds to raise to cater the event and bundle that deal with the Harvest Bash. They are pretty reasonable and a local business. We could promote their sponsorship. Brad K suggested Broadneck Grill too. We should look into how much--$25 a head. The Bash should be considered at least a break-even but we should be thinking about the Bash as a money maker for CCC's budget as far as ticket revenues. Marita will talk to Broadneck Grill and Stacey will check with Graul’s once things are conducive to talking in person.

11. The insurance issue - Table the discussion once we can meet in person.

12. Phil went by the plot at Lake Claire that Olivia planted last year and is concerned that 1 or 2 catamarans are parked on top of them or very near them. Brad H said that the one that is closest is Olivia's. (She is protecting them). Brad H put a stop to the prospect of adding extra spots on the beach for catamarans because of the grasses.

13. Brad K brought up a new issue: the MRA is investigating an issue in Arnold, where the County is in the process of permitting a new car wash behind Mothers Grill on Ritchie Hwy. The area behind the prospective site drops off steeply to some creeks that WPRP has done some restoration work on. It's a little touchy because it's someone's business, but we need to do some stealth recon to get a handle on it (Brad K and Brad H). Most of the car washes say they recycle their own water but sometimes that's not the case. This is a cause for caution, concern, and reconnaissance. Once the water leaves the business, it's out of the County's jurisdiction.

14. Meeting adjourned at 8:14.