

## Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting, 5/18/2020

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

The meeting was held remotely on Zoom. Call to order: 7:32pm

1. Minutes from last month's meeting were approved.
2. Treasurer's report: Phil sent a copy of the report: General fund \$11,685, Grants \$467.
3. Chris Pax Speaker Event is not being rescheduled yet.
4. We agreed that the Habitat Hero Tour will be postponed. Phil will make the notation to the website.
5. Neil looked into the step pools by Jennifer's house. He found out that a pumping station is not being built there but instead, the County was talking about the Serene Ravine pump station.
6. No update yet on the step pools at the ball fields. Brad K will meet later with Erik Michelsen and watch the weather when that happens.
7. Wednesday Weed Warriors: The Bush Killer is appearing. Al staked out two 100 sq ft plots (1 in sun, 1 in shade) for us to aggressively pull there and see if it works. Larry asked if we could wack the sprouts that come up to deprive the roots of energy. Al said early on we were advised not to leave any pieces of the stem, but to pick it up and remove from the site. If we cut them and cut them off at soil level, then bag the pieces. Phil said the rhizomes are very thick so there is a lot of energy in them, so cutting them might not help, but digging up the rhizomes would remove all that energy. We decided to not to use Glyphosate because it kills everything else around it. Larry said he had tons of wisteria in his yard and said Dr. Gouin mentioned that if you spray it in the fall, it worked on it. Al's observation is the growth is slower in the shady areas. Our main goal is to keep it off the trees. Eventually, we can try alternatives when the trees grow up.

The Packera Aurea did really well in the Serene Ravine. The seed heads are forming. There are baby plants outside of where we planted and they will keep spreading. Al sees about 50 people a day going down there. It would be nice to have a sign. Maybe we could do something on Cape property. Let's talk about it on Saturday. Maybe a tilted, waist level sign you look down on. One day, we could have some signs identifying what we planted (perhaps boy scouts to do that). Al said the benches he built years ago won't last forever. Some more permanent benches some day would be a great project. The Weed Warriors should probably get down to our rain garden at the Little Magothy maybe on the 27th.

8. Planting at the Serene Ravine will be this Saturday 9:00 am. Woodland Phlox, Goldenrod, Fern, Wood Aster. 9-10 to place the plants where we want them and get started with putting them in, and then 10-11 help finish planting. They are adamant about not going over 10 people. Jeannie Klinger will help us again the Saturday. Al, Brad K, and Phil will meet at 6pm at Brad K's on Friday night to load plants into Phil's trailer so they ready to unload on Saturday. This is a rain or shine event. We have 72 qts of phlox and 18 asters, 18 goldenrod, 24 ferns. There are ticks in the Serene Ravine, so wear long sleeves and pants, and spray yourself with repellants.

9. For planting at Goshen, Larry is still trying to figure out seeping water into the holes. Roy put in a dike into the pond edge. Looking for a spot with good sun. Cardinal flower is perfect for some conditions.

Start planting next week in patches. He will keep us updated. He hopes to get the grant written for Unity Gardens before the June deadline.

10. Olivia's grasses at Lake Claire Beach: In that big torrential rain storms, the water came up high near the Sailing shack, and a lot of Indian Grass and Panicum got pulled up. We lost some but she's trying to put them back. We will see how it goes throughout the summer. We may need to use some proceeds from our Fall Plant Sale to replace some, possibly with bigger plants (gallons), and some Goldenrod.

11. Habitat Heroes - we need a new nominee for June. Stacey knows of one lady that is removing lawn and adding plants. She seemed like a good one. Open to suggestions. Stacey will type up something about her. She has messaged with her.

12. Stand up paddle boarders are planning to paddle the whole Chesapeake Bay. The one guy that was born and raised in the Cape, Goose, is one of them. He has Capital South (Annapolis Paddleboard). It is over 200 miles, so will probably take 8 days. Chris who organized it is a former oyster grower. It would be nice if CCC could donate a \$100. We agreed. Phil could share their info on the website. They will hopefully do daily blogs with their progress. People can join them for different segments. Phil needs his contact info from Brad K to get the right link. He will look at the page. Brad K will email him and tell him CCC will donate and ask him about his daily blog.

13. Pittman's letter: Phil would like to have a response to Pittman of support of his response. Should CCC do that? Larry said yes, it should be a CCC letter. Phil can draft a letter thanking Pittman for his support and we will start with that. It can go on our website once it is done. Brad K agrees but wishes Pittman had come out and said something sooner. Neil said there is an angle that we can approach with old maps. Navigable waters and 100 years of history of shoreline and old home movies showing the old beach, so that will part of the lawsuit. Brad K said Steve or Mike Derby have been here since in early part of the Cape. Steve, a former judge might know of legalities and adverse possession. Steve might have been president. Mike the son lives in the house now at the end of Hampton. Neil was asked if the pending lawsuit will not stop the progress of the pier construction itself. He said the restraining order will be in place until the courts reopen and we can get a hearing. This is all separate from the beach project, for which we have the permits in place. Someone is pursuing a public hearing even though all is approved. MDE will entertain that request for a hearing since they want to keep everyone happy and get all parties signed off before they proceed. Neil is hearing all positives from the agencies. Lake Claire is moving forward fast due to the speed in funding. The plans are on the Cape website. They will be driving tree trunks upside down into the sand offshore and putting up batten boards on piers. Ideally, work will start this Fall.

14. Stacey attended the BOG meeting last week. The Lake Claire project is moving along. They got the \$50K Fish & Wildlife grant. The Strawberry Festival is postponed. Youth Sailing is cancelled. Beach attendants are checking stickers. Playgrounds are closed. Once they reopen the playground, they will sanitize it regularly. Neil brought up the Serene Ravine situation. The saplings Stacey planted disappeared. The big area by the pump house was mowed. When Stacey saw that and contacted Ryan to see if Cape hired crew had done the mowing, but he said No, as Stacey suspected. It ended up that the homeowners right behind the pump house mowed it. (The homeowner admitted to Bill R that she had mowed it.) Stacey sent Ryan a photo and Bill sent him a sworn statement. Ryan talked to the husband. The husband was gracious. The new agreement is that Jerome or Neil will be mowing a strip of grass along their fence line the width of a mower to help them with access and weed management. We will

keep an eye on it to make sure the ravine doesn't get mowed again, in which case, don't confront them, but instead inform Neil or Ryan.

15. Regarding Jennifer's email about Eco Goats in Atlantis, the residents are trying to get the community involved in a Weed Warrior set up and get them started with cleanup. Bill suggested that we invite some Atlantis residents to the Serene Ravine and show them what we do. Their main goal is to remove invasives. Brad H said the Southview owners are unhappy that their privacy is gone and nothing has been replanted. Maybe Atlantis people could reach out to Southview homeowners about helping with cleanup. Stacey asked Jennifer for contact info for the Atlantis people. Phil said they must have some organization. Brad K said Mark Sint has been trying to get the HOA to clean up now. The old farm equipment was dug out and donated to Goshen. We don't know how they are paying for Jennifer's goats. There is a Cape Atlantis border war about removing bamboo. The Cape person complained about killing his view and removal of privacy. It was on FB. CCC could help them target their efforts. Brad H said his friends are on Southview and they are next to the cinderblock house with bamboo.

16. Phil sent a summary of the Nature Conservancy webinar to a few people. It was all about Chesapeake Bay restoration from their point of view. He can send anyone interested a link of the webinar itself. Brad K said the water in the bay is like mud right now, probably due to last weekend's boat activity. Neil said also seems that water quality is adversely affected after the Conowingo Dam is opened up.