

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting, 6/15/2020

The meeting was held on Larry's porch.

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

Call to order: 7:40pm

1. Minutes from last month's meeting were approved pending a few corrections from Phil.

2. Treasurer's report:

Current balances: General fund \$11,604, Grants \$467. (Stacey mentioned that she had another \$100 granted as she puts in volunteer hours. The check will come in August.)

Website: Habitat Heroes and Stuart Pittman support letter in the blog section.

3. In and around the Goshen pond, as weather permits, Larry continues with planting, such as *Juncus effusus* (soft rush) and joe pye weed. Bill will give Larry some additional joe pye weed. Larry wanted to wait and see if the rain filled the pond well, which it did.

4. Wednesday Weed Warriors: Stacey said that the pizza incentive worked. In addition to Stacey, Bill, and Larry, several high school students and parents came out to weed. In all, 15 bags of weeds were pulled. Several kids signed up to do more service hours the following weeks. Stacey continues to notify her list of contacts about Weed Warriors each week, and she did a SignUpGenius this past Wednesday. She might do a treat again one night as an incentive, but not every week.

5. The Saturday planting in the Serene Ravine went quickly and it appears that the plants are doing well. The Bushkiller is coming back quickly and starting to go up the trees. We agreed it is best to pull the underground thick rhizomes if possible, rather than the portions of the plant above ground. Luckily, the Bushkiller in the ravine across from Jennifer's old house appear to be gone ever since the step pools were installed.

6. Phil attended the BOG meeting on CCC's behalf and sent an email with his summary. We should all send in a positive comment in support of the Main Beach project during the comment period. Phil and Karen both received a big packet in the mail from Md.gov with plans on the Main Beach project and an invitation for comments. For those CCC board members that did not receive a packet, Phil will scan the contents and send them to everyone. The public hearing will be small and online, although comments will still be allowed after the hearing.

7. Habitat Hero winner Catherine Salam's property has rain barrels, compost, many native plants, and limited lawn. Although the Habitat Hero tour is cancelled, Stacey will write up something about her property in the next Caper. Katherine is a Master Gardener and her yard is Bay-Wise certified.

8. We all agreed to cancel the Harvest Bash this year because of the many unknowns and risks, insurance-related, and coronavirus-related. The Cape clubhouse may still be closed in the Fall anyway. Phil suggested that CCC should send a membership drive letter to inform the Harvest Bash is cancelled and ask for additional money to support CCC this year. Phil will start a draft and send it to the board. Larry mentioned that CCA asked for additional donations and some considerable money was raised. Al said that if people supported you before, they are still willing to support you now.

9. Al did an environmental film series with his church, and he suggested that perhaps CCC could do a similar outdoor event with a screening.

10. The annual Fall Native Plant Fest & Sale will be on September 19th, and Neil will check to make sure that the Cape Cleanup will not be on the same day. (It's either the 19th or 26th.) Unfortunately, Chris Pax can't come on either of those dates, and Adkins Arboretum will not be coming either. We decided to tailor it down this year to not have booths. We considered selling our plants online instead, but decided against it, due to the extensive amount of work to organize and process orders. We will have our sale at the Clubhouse grounds and insist on masks and social distancing. The plant sale committee (Stacey, Marita, Larry, Bill, Karen) will convene to decide on the plant list and quantities to order.

11. Stacey would like to apply for a Unity Gardens grant for additional plants to put in the Serene Ravine in the Fall.

12. Brad K. is hoping that the Tree Troopers initiative can get off the ground. Replant Anne Arundel partnered with Watershed Stewards Academy for the program that will provide subsidized trees in good sized pots to be planted in the County. Tree Troopers are needed to coordinate the effort. For \$20, you get a \$50 tree. The planting could be completely subsidized for the right place. Brad wants to take advantage of this and make up a plan. Possible sites are the entrance to the Lake Claire beach parking lot where the bamboo was. Neil said that the bamboo removal can't be lumped in with the Lake Claire beach project, which is shoreline erosion. Brad said that if someone becomes a Watershed Steward, that the Tree Trooper planting could be his or her capstone project.

13. Neil said that the lawsuit over the newly constructed private pier near Main Beach is ongoing.

14. In order to do signs for the Serene Ravine, we will have to show a design and where they will go. They would be placed off of County property. Neil said he will check the Cape bylaws, and even if the signs are on private property, the County has rules, requirements, and ordinances on open space declared for public use. We know we want waist-level signs. Additionally, we need 3 new benches made for the ravine. Stacey will send Neil the design for the "Leopold" benches for Neil to pass on to a Boy Scout who wants a project.