

## Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 12/21/2020

The meeting was held via Zoom.

In attendance: Stacey Wildberger, Marita Roos, Phil Ourisson, Brad Knopf, Bill Rappoport, Larry Jennings, Brad Hill, Tonya Powell, Karen Minor, Neil Macindoe. (Jeanne Martin tried but could not call in.)

Call to order 7:35pm.

1. Minutes from last month's meeting were approved.
2. Treasurer report:
  - a. General fund \$14,131. Grants fund \$555. Phil emailed the board a detailed Treasurer's report.
  - b. Fundraising update:
    - i. Stacey's goal was to raise \$500 on the Giving Tuesday event on Facebook, and she received a message that we met our goal. One person actually donated twice. She believes donations gets matched, which would get us \$1,000, but she's not sure how we get the money, since there were no further instructions. Stacey will follow up if we don't hear anything.
    - ii. Phil inquired with Leslie at CSCIA's office to see if we had anything coming in.
  - c. Phil submitted the credit card application to Severn Bank and received a letter denying our application due to insufficient revenues. Severn Bank farms out its credit card application to another bank. Phil sent a further email to the credit card company with additional information. They acknowledged receiving it. Phil will give them a call this week to find out the status. If we don't get approved, Phil said he would inquire with the bank in the Cape shopping center. Brad K said 1<sup>st</sup> National supports fracking, which is contrary to CCC's mission. Phil banks with PNC. Severn Bank prides itself as ecologically friendly. Marita is in favor of pressuring Severn Bank and sticking with them if possible and not going with a 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank. Phil will make an appointment with Severn Bank and tell them we will bail if we don't hear back from them soon. He will have some leverage if he has another bank in his pocket when he meets with them.
3. Old business:
  - a. Eagle Scout Sam Papps completed his Eagle Scout project to build and install 3 Leopold benches in the Serene Ravine this past Saturday (Dec 19<sup>th</sup>). Stacey said we had a nice group of kids, 6 scouts in all, and several adult helpers that came out to put the benches together, bolt them down, and screw in the plaques. Sam did a good job of managing it. The plaques are gorgeous, and the benches look great. Sam will come back and put in more cement to even it out, and then add more dirt and mulch around it. Neil cautioned that we should keep the dirt off the untreated wood and suggested to keep the dry mulch away from the wooden feet. The benches look really nice. Stacey posted the day's project on CCC's Facebook page.
  - b. Stacey and Jeanne were both approved to be in the 13<sup>th</sup> class of the Watershed Stewards Academy program. Classes start in January.
  - c. Tree removal at Serene Ravine. Stacey met with Ryan and Kristy from Richards Tree Care. They took down the one originally discussed that was leaning over precariously, as well as 6-8 other trees. Most of them were dead and didn't seem to be danger, but the County forester came out and identified them or Ryan did. The workers rolled the trunks as they took them down, and some of the Packera Aurea got a little smashed. Bill, Larry, and Al went out and rolled the logs off the plants, and rolled some logs up to the parking space. Bill might cut some of them smaller. The logs will stay where they are and rot in 8-10 years and offer food for the wildlife in the ravine. The effect of the tree removal is that the ravine is sunnier now. Stacey suggested that perhaps along the property line, we can create some stick piles. Stacey posted on Facebook some cool photos of a wildlife fence, which is basically rows of old stumps with debris in between to form a decorative and functional habitat for wildlife.
4. New business:

- a. Stacey, Bill, and Larry were nice enough to attend the Cape Board of Governors meeting. Key points discussed:
  - i. Site 1 (Main Beach) is set for March 1st. Neil said the goal is to start on Site 2 (Lake Claire beach) as soon as Site 1 is done. We have the permits lined up for both. It has been an incredibly slow process to get all the permits lined up.
  - ii. Neil met with another Eagle Scout, Brad White, who is proposing as his project to tackle the erosion control behind the pool and shopping center. Brad definitely did his homework and had an impressive presentation and plan. He's picked certain points to slow down the water flow. At some points will be step ponds to slow the water down and stem the erosion. The project will involve using geo textiles, mulch, and boulders. Brad is trying to get as much free materials as possible. Neil encouraged Brad to approach companies for donated materials, such as free wood chips from Richards Tree Service. We all agreed to let Brad come and ask CCC for money after he sees what materials he can procure. Phil suggested he could give CCC a presentation like Olivia West did.
  - iii. Amanda Fiedler, who represents District 5 of the County Council, will be introducing a bill to prevent illegal piers from being built on community property. She may need community support in the form of writing letters and emails supporting of the bill.
  - iv. The Cape clubhouse will tentatively open on March 20th, since the intake of revenue is way behind, but of course the date will depend on County COVID regulations. Phil mentioned that the County 1-day liquor licenses issuances have been suspended, which has had an indirect, adverse impact on the Cape's opportunities for revenue.
  - v. Bill Szczytko has to step down as CSCIA president, since he's maxed out at 2 years. Bill and Neil will continue on the BOG.
- b. CCC's 4th quarter 2020 Habitat Hero winner is Allison Crews-Turner. Stacey just finished writing the article. At first, Allison was hesitant about accepting the nomination, but Stacey explained that we aren't looking for perfection, but instead, going in the right direction is what it's about, so now Allison is happy she won. Allison is learning now from reading the Doug Tallamy book and Stacey's articles. She had a ton of success with monarchs in her yard, and her milkweed has supported caterpillars this year. She's working on establishing a meadow area in a corner of her yard, and she has dedicated an area for leaves and compost. Adkins Arboretum donated \$25 for her to spend at the plant sale.
- c. Joseph Humphries, another Eagle Scout candidate, is working on his proposal to build nesting boxes and a sign for the Serene Ravine. Neil got Stacey hooked back up with the scout master. CCC will need to come up with what we want on the sign. Marita volunteered (and we volunteered Al) to come up with the verbiage for ideas on the sign, then Joseph can come up with a design.
- d. Phil sent us the email about the 2021 Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC), which is for charities in general. Phil said that CCC is recognized as a charity and that basically the MCC is a "no strings attached" means of getting money for non-profits like us. There's no restriction on what we can use this grant for, and there's no downside on applying. We must submit our 501(c)(3) articles of incorporation, our bylaws, an operating budget for 2021, the Maryland report on moneys, and describe the services we have provided to Maryland residents, and maybe we'll get it. Phil said he would like to apply, and we agreed to go for it.
- e. The Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee (MUCFC) Grants program, through the Forestry Council, is more complicated to apply for. Marita looked at the application and said it's pretty involved, but not as bad as Chesapeake Bay Trust application. The maximum grant to an organization is \$1,000 to plant trees. The application is the worst part of it. It's about 2 pages, and submitting a budget is also required. They encourage the use of trees from the Maryland state nursery. Those trees are only about 1" caliper. The trees must be planted on public lands, which is community or county property. The grants consider HOA land "public". Phil suggested maybe the two ravines off Cape St Claire Rd, or near the ball fields to replace some dead trees. Brad K said that if Brad White does the Eagle Scout project behind the pool, there are many invasives back there. Marita agreed that the project would need new plantings. We also can plant down at the Serene

Ravine on the side across from Al. That hill has many invasives so would be a good location to plant native trees and it's county property. The grant allows planting of native trees or shrubs. We must submit a plan designating where we want plant before we apply for the grant. Stacey said we need to chat with Ryan and the BOG. Phil's other concern: grants with matching funds would be given priority. Larry said they would match our money. Marita is willing to take the lead on applying. The application is due by July 15th. We agreed to go for it.

- f. A lady contacted Stacey yesterday inquiring about possibly having a private table at our plant sale to sell soy-based candles with native flowers embedded in them. She's interested in being a vendor at our plant sale of native plants rather than the Garden Club's Spring plant sale. We discussed that if we did allow her to sell at her own table, it could be confusing for people when they go to pay. We would also want to consider charging her a fee, such as a \$25 or \$50 donation. Larry questioned how commercial we want to make our plant sale. Phil suggested the Strawberry Festival as an alternative. We don't have to decide now, but agreed that this could open a new can of worms. Brad K added that it could be slippery slope, in that it might be hard to exclude vendors who want to come in. Having additional vendors could be a detriment to our plant sales. Stacey will ask her for photos of her product. We decided to wait and look at her photos, but for now, we are leaning towards rejecting her request. We will do a final vote later.
- g. Congratulations to Bill for completing the Master Gardener program, which was conducted via online classes. He finished up with an open book, 3-hour final exam on Dec 2nd. Bill reported that it was a good program and suggested that we get the Serene Ravine Bay-Wise certified. Larry said that Goshen got Bay-Wise certified, even before the pond plantings started. The Cape Clubhouse is also Bay-Wise certified.

Adjourned 8:28pm.