

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 01/18/2021

The meeting was held via Zoom.

In attendance: Stacey Wildberger, Marita Roos, Phil Ourisson, Brad Knopf, Larry Jennings, Brad Hill, Jeanne Martin

Call to order 7:35pm.

1. Minutes from last month's meeting were approved.
2. Treasurer report:
 - a. Balances: General fund \$14,691. Grants fund \$1015. Phil emailed the board a detailed Treasurer's report, along with reminders to everyone to pay their CCC membership dues for the year. We haven't received any Giving Tuesday funds yet. It might take up to 16 weeks. Last Monday, Phil received the check for \$460 from Stacey's credit card donation plus payroll deductions.
 - b. Phil reported that he has tried hard with Severn Bank, but they would not extend a line of credit to us. Phil subsequently closed the Severn Bank account and moved the CCC funds to a new checking account at PNC Bank, and he secured a \$25K limit on the new credit card and a new debit card. Marita and Stacey will need to visit PNC to submit their signatures for the debit card. We don't have electronic access yet.
3. Old business
 - a. Stacey submitted the final report to Unity Gardens for the grant last fall. The spring cycle is open now, but we aren't eligible to apply until fall.
 - b. On 12/27, Stacey emailed CCC that there was an issue with the benches. The system Sam had to chain them down is not effective. All someone would have to do is lift the bench over the chain and walk away it. Al had some ideas on how to fix it and Stacey's husband looked at it and expressed concerns that the concrete will collect water (which has happened with bench 3). Phil also emailed his ideas on how to secure the bench posts to the concrete. We agreed to go with the stakes that Al suggested. Marita ordered them, and Phil installed them last Sunday to secure the benches.
 - c. Marita mentioned that all the logs along the path of the Serene Ravine are cluttering up the serene scene, and suggested that maybe we could consider hiring a contractor to chip some of them in place when it's time to remulch the path and parking area.
 - d. Sign copy (delay to Feb.)
 - e. Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC) application – Thanks to Phil for writing and sending out a very comprehensive list describing CCC's services for two preceding calendar years to Maryland residents. Phil suggested that maybe we should share the lists with CSCIA. Stacey and Marita agreed. Marita added that she and Stacey had already calculated that the dollar value of the donated time (\$27.50 federal rate) is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10,000 for last year alone. Between the weed warriors and board activities, we have donated over 500 hours to improving the Cape biodiversity and habitat. Phil submitted the application last Monday.
 - f. Forestry grant application possible uses - Stacey would like to do as her WSA project bamboo removal and storm water remediation at Lake Claire, and plant Atlantic white cedars, sweet spire, and blueberry bushes. Marita suggested that once Stacey gets her proposal together, we can see how we can use it to apply for the grant which is due February. Marita in the meanwhile will look at the Serene Ravine to see where we might plant a few trees as a fall back.

- g. Sign for Serene Ravine – haven't heard from the Eagle Scout.
- h. Marita said that Cavano's sent us an invite to register for a Doug Tallamy webinar on Friday Jan 8. Phil and Stacey, Larry, and Brad K registered. Larry added that Cavano's has some interesting new programs like the Habitat collection.
- i. Brad K sent an email to Eric Michelsen, the Deputy Director of the County's Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration, expressing concern for the future of a large number of trees on the downstream side of the Cat branch installation. The beavers' work in the streams has resulted in flooding that could possibly lead to trees drowning soon, and asked for his thoughts about piercing the dam wall with a perforated PVC pipe to lower the water level. Eric responded that they were aware of the beaver dams and that they are inclined to leave it undisturbed for now, unless something changes dramatically.

4. New business:

- a. CCC Invasive Shrub Swap: We will be purchasing beautyberry, Itea Henry's garnet, and spice bush. For the first 25 residents of the Cape or Atlantis that sign up, the plan is to offer 3 of these native shrubs in exchange for a nandina bush being removed. Stacey will post on Facebook. Saturday May 8th will be the pickup day at Karen's house. (We will need to plan some days to help people dig out nandina.)
- b. Living shoreline volunteers
- c. The Weed Warrior kickoff open house will be on Friday 3/26 from 5:30-7pm for past volunteers to help recruit new volunteers. The kickoff will not include weeding that night. Wednesday Weed Warriors will begin April 7th and continue every Wednesday through to October. Stacey will send out an email. We'll have pizza and beverages at the kickoff, and we may be able to serve wine and beer and not need a liquor license if we advertise as BYOB.
- d. Use of forest grant money on eagle scout project: Ryan asked about a neighbor's request for a screen of trees at 1231 Blue Ridge Pl. Maybe we could accomplish that using the Forestry grant or perhaps this can be part of Stacey's Watershed Steward capstone project at Lake Claire. Brad K also suggested the Tree Troopers.
- e. Habitat Hero tour for 2019 and 2020 winners June? Start thinking about ideas on how to structure. Since there are 8 gardens, we will have 2 tour dates. The first Habitat Hero tour will be on Saturday, June 26 9am-11am. The second will be on Saturday, August 28th 9am-11am.
- f. The CCC Native Plant Fest and Sale will be on Saturday, September 25 from 9am-12pm.
- g. April planting at ravine dates to be determined. We are thinking Virginia bluebells.
- h. Harvest Bash Friday will be on Friday, November 5th
- i. Jeanne is interested in doing her Watershed Steward project at Deep Creek to address the invasives and erosion issues. The plan is to walk the site on Sunday to help determine the scope of the project.

Adjourned 8:45pm.