

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 05/17/2021

The meeting was held on Larry's screened porch.

In attendance: Stacey, Marita, Phil, Bill, Larry, Jeanne, Karen

Call to order 7:42pm.

1. Minutes from last month's meeting were approved pending corrections from Phil on one sentence.
2. Treasurer report:
 - a. Balances: After accounting for \$684 in checks written but not cashed, and about \$2K of credit card debt posted but not debited, the approximate balance that we can work with is \$14K (Grants and General Fund).
 - b. Website – Phil attended a webinar given by the state of Maryland on the Solicitations Act today. Our website is illegal. We must add a statement to our website on how to access our financial statements. We may also need the statement on thank you letters, but not sure. Phil will reach out to Bill S for help on adding to the CCC website. (Done)
3. Old Business:
 - a. The Shrub Swap went well. The pickup date was moved to the 1st since there were so many shrubs. The delivery fee was \$250. Pickup happened in a timely fashion. Lessons learned: Have plant tags/markers in each pot and provide to all participants a handout that describes the plants and quantity of plants they ordered, as well as the applicable planting conditions. Also, we should order extra plants in case any plants are dead or if there are any mix-ups. A few mix-ups happened but it all worked out.
 - b. Stacey did a poll on the CCC Facebook page asking for suggestions on non-native plants to replace for the next plant swap. She got lots of suggestions, including liriopse, burning bush, Japanese honeysuckle, barberry, and butterfly bush. Stacey suggested perhaps tying the plant swap somehow with the Native Plant Sale. Katherine Woods has a long driveway on River Bay Rd. She volunteered the use of her driveway if we need it. We voted Yes to a Fall Plant Swap. (Passed)
 - c. Stacey's Watershed Steward Capstone project was very successful. Stacey thanks everyone involved. Over 40 volunteers showed up in the morning. Planting and watering went well and was completed in about 45 minutes. In the afternoon, 10 people helped plant the hill area of the ravine. Overall, enough people volunteered so that all tasks were done by 3:00. Small plants were covered with pots for protection. Some of the phlox stolonifera that was planted by the road in the full sun might need to be moved to shadier spots.
 - d. Stacey and Neil discussed the prospect of having a fence installed between the left side of the Serene Ravine and the adjacent properties. A lot of debris has been dumped and thrown into the ravine from the adjoining properties. Neil talked to a boy scout about cleaning the debris out of the ravine.
 - e. Stacey has noticed a huge drop in Garlic Mustard in the ravine this year. During one of the Weed Warrior sessions, Stacey showed one of the young volunteers named Jeremy how to dig up Packera Aurea and relocate it in order to crowd out the Garlic Mustard.

- f. The sign for the Serene Ravine: Stacey has submitted all the parts related to the sign that she was responsible for. She reached out to Jennifer about it. All the information that we would like in the sign has been submitted in a file that Jennifer can review, so we will wait to hear back from Jennifer.
- g. Stacey attended the Cape BOG meeting. CSCIA received \$250K from our delegate and another \$250 from the Senate, and may be receiving another \$250K. They are thinking they will end up with \$500K. Stacey brought up the phragmites at Lake Claire. They have been pushing it off. They said we need a vegetative management plan. Jennifer said we don't need one. Maybe if there's extra money, CSCIA can pay for spraying.
- h. Someone on Facebook gifted us a bat house. Stacey asked to be considered and won. She asked Ryan for permission. She brought it up at the BOG meeting. They said to send an email to the beaches and parks committee. Neil is the head of the beaches and parks committee and approved it. Now we have 2 bat houses. Larry said bat houses are best placed in spots that get morning sun.
- i. Harvest Bash: We discussed either using George's licensed kitchen for food preparation vs. having the Bash be a membership drive. We formed a Harvest Bash Committee (Larry, Phil, and Brad) and decided that Plan A would be a membership event. Phil sent an email to Leslie asking about availability, rates, and a cleaning fee. The next task is to contact the State for a food permit for a "membership only" potluck event.
- j. Jeanne gave an update on her Watershed Steward Academy (WSA) Capstone project. She sent her write-up to Josh, her WSA mentor. He will get the County forester out to take a look at Deep Creek. The tentative date is October 23rd-24th. Rain date: November 6th -7th. They don't want her to start until the end of boating season. The forester would decide if the plating would be volunteer or professional. CSCIA still has to approve it. Ryan is aware of the plan. Jeanne will invite Ryan to be in the meeting with the forester. The grant writing might involve the watershed steward. Worst case, start away from the 100' buffer. The area is 2000 sq ft. Jeanne wants to concentrate on the part we can get the WSA to help with. She will apply through CCC for a \$1,500 grant from Unity Gardens, and \$500 will come from the WSA, and then Jeanne will do some additional fundraising. At the worst case, planting won't occur until Spring. Phil said CCC has money to spend to help with the project. Once Jeanne has more details, she will give us an update.
- k. The first tour of two Habitat Hero tours will be in June. Stacey reached out to all of the Habitat Heroes and all of them are on board. Juliana Sharp is on Hampton and may be gone in June. They will be sending out information on the tour, which will be 2 hours each. It will start at Jennifer Crews Carrie's house. We picked a new date for the 2nd Habitat Hero tour: August 21st, since the original date we picked, August 28th is the date the Strawberry Festival will take place. CSCIA wants CCC to have a table at the Strawberry Festival. Jeanne said she is willing to run the table.
- l. Phil got an email from Maryland Charities this past week. They want us to add more things for their October drive, such as pictures. Phil asked Stacey to send him a photo of the Serene ravine "before" all of the work CCC has done. Maryland Charities is asking for more information. Phil has already done the write-up. He only gets to send them 3 photos.

4. New Business

- a. The Native Plant Sale will be on September 25th. Stacey reserved our North Creek Nurseries order. She doubled what we ordered last year. She submitted the list to get quotes from Babikow and Cavanaugh. Based on the new prices and new quantities, our budget will be about \$17K, which is reasonable, considering last year, we spent \$8,745. We can adjust our budget up or down. We changed banks to have enough funds to buy plants. We will sell the same plants we sold last year,

along with some additional plants like Baptisia. Stacey will see if Adkins can come out and man a booth. So far, we have Chris Pax and Nancy.

- b. In the Serene Ravine, we will discuss in more detail the idea of having a fence, clearing the debris that was dumped from neighboring properties, and spraying.
- c. Jeanne was talking to Stacey's sister and they agreed that they would love to do a casual event at the Serene Ravine on a quarterly basis. Kids could come to get an Eco button. The event would get people interested and invested. Some ideas of activities are Earth Day storytelling and rock painting.
- d. Olivia West the girl scout is looking for ideas for her Gold Award. Brainstorming, Stacey suggested that Olivia could write and print up laminated sheets of paper describing the plants that are blooming in Spring and Fall in the ravine, with QR codes. That could be part of the kickoff activity Jeanne suggested. Marita suggested that the QR code go back to a link on the CCC website. Stacey will continue brainstorming.
- e. Marita is moving to Germantown in July. To fill the soon to be vacated CCC Vice President position, Jeanne was nominated, we voted and approved, and Jeanne accepted the new post, effective July 1st.
- f. We got Al's band for the Harvest Bash. This CCC fundraiser generally has not brought in a lot of profit—only between one and two thousand each year. If we add the membership aspect in, we could get more profit to benefit CCC projects. We are considering making the Bash tickets, which would cover a year membership, \$40 or \$45.
- g. Adjourned. 9:20pm