

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 10/18/2021

The meeting was held in the Cape St Claire clubhouse.

In attendance (alphabetically): Al Todd, Bill Rappoport, Brad Knopf, Jeanne Klinger, Jeanne Martin, Karen Minor, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger

Call to order 7:04pm.

1. Minutes from last month's meeting were approved.
2. Treasurer report:
 - a. Phil shared 2 photos from the wildlife camera --1 night, 1 day-- to give us an idea of what is on the frame. In the few days there, hundreds of photos were taken, which only took up 1-2% of the disk. The batteries are still strong. Part of the bench is showing. Phil will adjust the sensitivity so that rustling leaves don't trigger the camera. Phil set it up to start at 5pm and stop at 9am. But all this is adjustable, so he can change the time frame if needed. We will have to decide how to set it up.
 - b. Balances: Phil sent the summary of funds. The numbers shown at the bottom are misleading since the credit card balance need to be paid and a few checks are not there. General Fund \$18,613, Grants \$152. Of note: the credit card is a rewards card. We got \$306 just for the Plant Sale and Plant Swap. The Broadneck Grill gave us \$192 from this past Wednesday in September. Phil decided that the next one will be in the 3rd Wednesday January. The Plant Fest balance is \$1,563. The Plant Swap balance is \$545. Out of these balances, Phil must still take out the sale tax of \$1,425 combined for the 2 events.
 - c. Website: Phil needs to post minutes and remove the posting about Noah.
3. Old Business:
 - a. Stacey attended the Cape St Claire BOG meeting at the club house last Monday. Some highlights:
 - i. Beau talked about the Bay Bridge. They are looking to replace 2 bridges with an 8-lane bridge. The cost of repairing the old ones is not worth it because the life span of the old bridges is just about up.
 - ii. The Eagle Scout project behind the Shopping Center was stalled so the Shopping Center asked what is going on. He hasn't moved forward in any way. Phil said Steiny had indicated that he was willing to help with the design and implementation because he was a Ranger in his profession. Hopefully he can reach out to Beau or Ryan. The Eagle Scout had a great presentation but sometimes they lose interest. The Board will reach out to the Eagle Scout. That is a huge project. Part of his plan was getting donations in kind.
 - iii. Halloween Happenings is on Saturday. The trick-or-treating was at the Shopping Center.
 - iv. Beach Replenishment Site 2 is still on track. The Board is waiting on the final permits.
 - v. Beach Replenishment Site 1 is still progressing. The project will involve adding a cobble beach feature and a backfill with sand. Monitoring of grasses and accretion of sand continues.
 - vi. The Budget has proposed a vote on the \$5 increase on the SCBD (Special Community Benefit District). That will bring it up to \$200, with the ceiling still \$225.
 - vii. They are still waiting to hear if the Lake Claire projected plantings will suffice with regard to offsetting loss of vegetation caused by the Deep Creek dredging. They are looking into that.
 - b. Jeannie's M's WSA capstone project is Saturday (Oct 23rd). Miss Utility never completed the Jeanne's original request, so it was automatically cancelled. When Jeanne followed up, they said they will be out there by Wednesday. Jeanne will call them Thursday. Because it is the BGE piece (electrical) we are waiting on, if Jeanne is not comfortable, she won't get WSA approval, but at least on Saturday, we can take ivy down from the trees. Then we'll have 8 cubic yards of mulch sitting on the top of the hill which

we will only spread once the ivy is pulled. Jeanne posted an appeal for funds on Facebook and received \$50. The shrubs will come out of the WSA funding. We shouldn't have to pay for it if it is part of Replant Anne Arundel. Jeanne said we'll see. WSA has not given Jeanne the total yet. Jeanne will ask WSA try to get hold of Josh to ask if we can just pull the ivy without using shovels. It's WSA's integrity and liability since we are advertising her capstone project as a WSA event. If something goes wrong, that will put their whole program in jeopardy. We could always have an impromptu Weed Warriors event. WSA is supposed to give Jeanne waivers. She will get on that. Stacey suggested that Jeanne ask young student volunteers to bring their own school slips to record their volunteer hours. Phil did a mass email today. Jeanne said 15 volunteers have signed up so far. Jeanne feels that will be enough people. She bought a box of contractor bags and we have permission to use the dumpster. We don't need guest passes. Ryan will be there to ensure people won't get towed. Al said we might need to haul some of the bags of pulled weeds to another dumpster. Friday night, Jeanne will place cones and a blue tarp out in the middle of the parking lot in preparation for the delivery of mulch from Gary's Gardens. She asked to use Stacey's truck for the cones.

- c. Stacey requested an Eastern Red Cedar for the lady who requested a tree to block the view of the shopping center. Stacey reached out to her to tell her we'll have that in early November, along with Serviceberry and Sumac to use in other places.
- d. This past Saturday (October 9th), we did the Eco Action project. We had a good turnout of 15 people. Two Eco Action team members worked. This week, Stacey gladly took their check for \$895, the whole amount. Milkweed, Solidago, Little Bluestem, and little grasses were planted. Bill watered all of them and they look good. All worked out well.
- e. Saturday was the oyster reef building project in Noah Anderson's memory. Stacey, Al, and Brad K attended. Tons of people came out and 34 reef balls were built. On Sunday, they took the molds off. The reef balls will be sunken off Dobbins Island. At the CCC table, 2 visitors signed up. Phil will add their contact information to the distribution list. Robert Corletta, a forester for the city, wants to get involved in volunteering. It would have helped to have a banner on the CCC table to attract more attention.
- f. The permit for the Serene Ravine sign was approved. Phil paid the 50% deposit, and the sign has been ordered. It will take 6-12 weeks. As soon as it comes in, they can install it. Next Spring, we should have a kickoff or ribbon-cutting event to announce the new sign.
- g. Other big news at the Serene Ravine: Last week, contractors sprayed the Bushkiller vine throughout the ravine. Al said they were out there for 3 hours. They used a lower concentrate to start with, and said to give it 2 weeks; however, not much evidence of die back is visible yet. The concern is that the concentration was too low. Stacey will contact the contractors next week to schedule the next spray this Fall. Stacey had to quickly submit a VMP, and got it approved in 24 hours by Bud Reeves. That was Tuesday, and Wednesday afternoon, Stacey emailed him, and he said chances are good. In the morning on Thursday, he sent it 7am, then Stacey met the sprayers at 8:30am. We need money if we want to keep going with it. Weed Warriors will work on Wednesday where they aren't spraying. At some point, it would be good to dab our own glyphosate. Al pulled the signs in the ravine about it.
- h. Phil discovered there are grants available from Mountain Dew. The grant must fund a project that is community-based and ecological. Stacey submitted the application. There were 5 things to fill out. She wrote it up, and submitted it on the website and sent it in. We will hear back in mid-December.
- i. The CBT grants Stacey thought may apply to us will open in a month. On Wednesday, Stacey will meet with 2 CBT people at the Serene Ravine. The lady said the grant could allow some money to be used towards the spraying and planting. Stacey will ask them the best route to pursue.
- j. Al sent a note to Craig inquiring about Alliance Chesapeake Bay Forest Conservancy money.
- k. The Native Plant Fest went well overall. Katherine Woods should be commended for presale drop off and having all the plants in her driveway afterwards and receiving people at her house at set times. We

sold \$3K from her driveway. The rest were planted in the Serene Ravine. We have a half flat of Eburnea that Katherine will babysit over the Winter and then next Spring, we can plant those in the Ravine. Bill suggested next year, we have water dishes for dogs. Phil said he had bad reception on his phone during the sale. Someone at the sale suggested he could do the sales offline and then upload afterwards, which he did. Al suggested we have some carts or wheelbarrows people could use to transport their purchases to their cars. He also suggested having everything delivered to the field the day before and get some security. We all agreed. Stacey brought that up at the BOG meeting to ask about that. They said the Garden Club does that. Al questioned about the quantity of some of the grasses. Stacey said we will drop some types of grasses like some Carex. Stacey will cut Royal Fern, that she was disappointed with some of the milkweed, and that some of the butterfly weed looked to be rotting. The pink muhly grass was cut back unfortunately, so it wasn't as appealing as it could have been. Jeanne K said Alison Milligan suggested we have photos of how a small garden would look like. Phil said we could do a presentation at the Clubhouse this year on how to design a small garden and how to group the plants. Maybe Alison Milligan could do a talk. She does talks for fun and goes to people houses and shows them what to plant and how to plant it. Jeanne M said maybe we could ask for her help and maybe have a raffle ticket for a one-hour design consultation. Bill asked about Chris Pax. She bought several flats. Alison brought the shrubs that were for sale. They were a hit. CCC paid her to buy them, and we marked them up ever so slightly. She picked them up from Schott Nurseries near Taneytown, and she's willing to do that again. Jeanne M suggested we should get more partners next year. She observed they were all pretty busy. Lights Out Baltimore didn't come, but they would like to come next year. Jeanne M's demonstration went well. Pollinator Pathways' booth was popular.

4. New Business:

- a. The Caper CCC article must be one page or else we will have to pay money. There will no longer be pictures. Phil said we will put photos on the website. Al said there is a lot of outside information out there that we could put out as the CCC article on the website and our Facebook page. Stacey feels that original content is a positive thing. Phil said occasionally, he posts links on CCC's website on the blog area, and he posts photos from an article and a link to it. Stacey said she's open to anyone else writing an article or submitting ideas for a topic.
- b. Last Wednesday, Stacey met with the Unity Gardens lady. The lady wanted to know if things were going well, and she encouraged us to apply for another grant. Stacey said probably in the Spring, we will apply for a grant to pay for plants in a shady area around the tree at the rain garden. We could further define the space with some edging.
- c. Jeanne K looked into the table skirt banner. She contacted 2 people and they didn't get back to her. Signs By Tomorrow would be a good company to contact. Jeanne K said the Strawberry Festival banner material is good and durable.
- d. Brad K was going to look into T-shirts. He reported that there were 2 companies. One company in North Carolina has a better price, at \$10 per shirt. However, a black-owned company in Lanham (PG County) called Big Frog got tons of likes. They have 323 very high ratings. For about \$18-\$20 a shirt, you can get a logo on the front and back on a good quality shirt. Brad looked into embroidery, and it starts at \$30 per shirt and would require the logo to be simplified. Brad would like to order about 20 shirts as an order. The company offers flexibility, in that you can mix up colors, specify different quality levels, and specify long vs short sleeves. Brad got a good feel for this company. They have minimums and require order quantities in 10s. Stacey suggested we as CCC pay for 1 shirt for all of us (min 20). Brad sent them our logo. The next step is to do a survey of sizes. Let's choose 2-3 colors. Brad will send out an email to us all about it with a link. Let's all send Brad our choice of top 3 colors.
- e. Jeanne M will work on the membership drive in November to get in time for the last-minute December tax breaks.
- f. We need to pick a date in mid-November to mulch the path at the Serene Ravine. November 20th?

- g. Stacey asked us to start thinking of other Spring projects (other than the Serene Ravine because of the spraying). Maybe addressing runoff or beautifying the rain garden. Al asked if CCC has inquired with the Cape BOG on what they would like us to work on. Phil said they asked about the path behind the Shopping Center (see Eagle Scout project) for at least 3 years.
- h. Al sent Stacey a survey from the Maryland League of Conservation Voters. She will send the link around for feedback on what environmental issues (or any issues) are our biggest concern. Basically, what you want to concentrate on this year. Please fill it out.

Adjourned 8:50.