

## Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 12/20/2021

The meeting was held via Zoom.

In attendance (alphabetically): Al Todd, Bill Rappoport, Brad Knopf, Karen Minor, Larry Jennings, Neil Macindoe, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger

Call to order 7:08pm.

1. Approval of last month's CCC meeting minutes was tabled until members have enough time to review the document recently sent via email.
2. Treasurer report:
  - a. The current balance is \$15,918. A credit card payment of \$1,960 that is due will be come off. Phil hasn't gotten the invoice for the Tree Troopers yet. CCC still owes money on the Serene Ravine sign. The charge for the tablecloth is not known yet, and the T-shirts are pending. Phil added that in last month's meeting, we discussed the sales tax on the trees. There was an extensive discussion on whether sales tax should be paid. Phil said we will have to pay the State 6% sales tax, then another 3% charge for the Pay Pal charge. Stacey asked Robert at WSA about this and he said no one ever pays sales tax. Stacey will get further clarification from WSA on why they say they don't pay sales tax, and she said that in the future, WSA should invoice CCC directly, or as a matter of procedure, as Phil suggested, we upcharge 10% to cover MD sales tax and the Pay Pal fee.
  - b. Website: Phil continues to make regular updates to the CCC website.
3. Old Business:
  - a. Stacey attended the BOG last Monday. Work has started at Lake Claire and the cobble beach at Site 1 will move forward with adding sand dredged from the Little Magothy. Our window to complete work at Site 1 expires end of January, and the deadline to finish work at Lake Claire is end of February. Larry asked Neil to let us know when they start with the reef balls at the Lake Claire project. They will also be doing batten boards at the boat dock and bringing in sand. The oyster reef balls are on the barge. It's a matter of watching the weather.
  - b. At the Serene Ravine, 20 people showed up to mulch the path. The ravine looks nice for the winter.
  - c. CCC helped distribute 87 trees for the Tree Troopers program. People were very excited about it.
  - d. Jeanne K ordered the table skirt. Once it comes in, the company will invoice us for it.
  - e. Brad K had to switch gears and go with another company on the T-shirts. Doing that actually saved us some money. Brad put down a 50% deposit on the order. Phil told Brad to let him know when additional money is needed.
  - f. No additional news on the Serene Ravine sign.
  - g. Jeanne M and Stacey graduated from WSA. They had a nice virtual graduation. The WSA annual conference is coming up in end of February. WSA asked Brad and Stacey to speak on how to get the community involved to promote community engagement. The public can join the conference. Stacey will let us know when she gets more information on the conference.
  - h. The Mountain Dew grants notification date was December 15<sup>th</sup>. Stacey didn't hear back from them, which makes her think we didn't get a grant.
  - i. Stacey is still working on the mini grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

- j. Karen didn't hear back from the mother of the boy scout about his proposed Eagle Scout project to stabilize soil and mitigate stormwater runoff behind the community pool. Phil didn't not hear back from Steiny either.

4. New Business:

- a. Stacey would like to do some spur of the moment work on warmer days this winter in the Serene Ravine and Little Magothy rain garden to weed English Ivy and other invasive weeds. She will shoot out an email when weather and temperature look conducive to doing the work.
- b. On the Maryland Charity Campaign for 2022, Phil said he didn't get any response back, but he got a notice to re-up. He asked the board if we want to do proceed and added that it doesn't cost us anything. The board agreed that as long as it is free and does not take up too much of his time, we were in favor.
- c. Brad sent a message to Suzanne Etgen asking about the trees. It is clear about doing a donation. She CC'd Rob on any further information to provide. Donations is the key word there. Let's see what Rob has to say. Worth a shot to look into with government officials. Stacey said we'll run it up the chain on the sales tax.
- d. Stacey suggested that in the January CCC meeting, we come up with a schedule of events and get dates set for the events so that we can have a set calendar for the whole year. Phil has booked the clubhouse for the monthly meetings and Harvest Bash, in case conditions at the time are favorable for having the event.
- e. The CCC membership drive will include a recap of all the things that CCC accomplished over the year, while asking for support. Hopefully after the holidays, Jeanne M can focus on the list. Phil said that in the acknowledgement of donation letter, he will have list that Stacey wrote out that enumerates the things that donated money has been used for. Stacey suggested we have that list on the website membership page well. Jeanne M noted that she wants to come up with a token thing to give people who donate.
- f. Bill mentioned that on Dec 12th, Unity Gardens announced it will be doubling the grants fund in the Spring, and that we should continue to apply. Stacey has already started writing up the list of additional plants we could use. Grants from Unity Gardens were \$1,000 and they will additionally give super grants that are \$3,000, which CCC will try to get. Stacey has already started the application process. The applications are being accepted January 15th to March 1st. They take about a month to make their decision and notify grantees. Larry mentioned that he'll need some more plants for his Goshen Farm pond project. The plan for planting any plants for any areas will be in April. Phil said timing-wise, in 2021, we started the process of getting money for purchasing plants for the Plant Swap in February. We should think about maybe 2 plants to dig up. Stacey has polled people, and they suggested English Ivy. Stacey proposed that maybe we could swap 20 sq. ft. of English Ivy removed in exchange for 20 plants of Packera Aurea, or perhaps native pachysandra. Brad suggested turfgrass be included in the square feet idea. Other suggestions for invasive plants to remove included Burning Bush and Butterfly Bush.
- g. Al has been thinking about big trees. Cape St Claire is a great place for big trees and specimen trees. There are Champion Tree programs we could participate in or put together our own. Some local communities have done their own Champion tree programs. Maybe we could do that in Cape to identify champion trees and then do a tour of the trees. People seem to be taking down a lot of big trees, so the program could encourage and educate people on the value of big trees and keeping them. Larry suggested we would need an expert to identify the trees such as types of oaks. Al said there are a few

foresters that live in Cape St Claire, and that maybe we could recruit them to help us. Phil said the other concern we have are major limbs breaking off. He has seen cabling of trees that we could encourage or help with.

Adjourned 7:49.