

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 1/17/2022

The meeting was held in the Cape St. Claire Clubhouse.

In attendance (alphabetically): Bill Rappoport, Brad Knopf, Jeanne Klinger, Jeanne Martin, Karen Minor, Larry Jennings, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger, Tonya Powell

Call to order 7:04pm.

1. We had a guest, Lydia McPherson Shamberger, who grew up in Cape St. Claire and now lives in Eastport. She studied Environmental Studies in college and currently works for Dana Jones, the Maryland General Assembly delegate for Annapolis and Edgewater. Lydia is enrolled as a Watershed Stewards Academy candidate and is planning work at Deep Creek for her capstone project. Stacey and Jeanne M gave their advice to Lydia on how to make her WSA capstone project easier. Stacey asked CCC to offer financial support to Lydia's project, which will be done in October. Lydia is excited to work in our community, such as volunteering for Weed Warriors.
2. Meeting minutes: One correction to the November CCC meeting minutes and several corrections to the December CCC meeting minutes were relayed to Karen.
3. Treasurer report:
 - a. Phil passed around a spreadsheet of interest. It shows the yearend balance of our funding and what he's reporting to the State of Maryland. He sent his detailed Treasurer's report by email yesterday. The General Fund balance is \$13,252, and the Grants balance is \$2,663. There are a few monies due not cashed, and credit card charges that not come through. We just got and deposited a \$250 check.
 - b. This Wednesday from 5:00-9:00pm is the Broadneck Grill fundraiser night, which applies to carry out too.
 - c. No new updates on the website. Stacey approved Phil's edits to Stacey's blog post on native evergreens.
4. Old business:
 - a. Stacey attended the Cape St Claire BOG meeting last Monday and the quarterly Cape meeting on Tuesday. Her summary:
 - i. Site 1 is on hold for a while. Jan 21st is the deadline on when the work must be done. They dredged Little Magothy sand, and we got the permit to keep the sand. They are working on the cobble beach. Work at Lake Claire must be done by the mid-February, but they have started putting in the root balls. They got their \$250K check from their bond bill. Now they have all the money to pay for all the projects identified.
 - ii. They are still trying to do dredging at Deep Creek.
 - iii. Outdoor dining is extended to January 2023.
 - iv. They got their \$260K Chesapeake Bay Program payments.
 - v. Membership cards were sent out.
 - vi. At the Little Magothy inlet, dredging will have to occur 5-6 more times to build up to what we wanted to have.
 - b. Jeanne K bought the new CCC table skirt and Stacey brought it in.
 - c. Brad K brought the new CCC T-shirts and collected checks from those of us who had not yet paid.
 - d. The Serene Ravine sign is in. Maybe next week we can have it installed.

- e. Phil talked about the Maryland Charity Campaign. We didn't get any hits. We must furnish next year's budget and describe who we are in 25-words or less. Phil took care of getting this done.
- f. Wildlife cameras: Table the discussion for later when can talk to Neil.
- g. Chesapeake Bay Trust grant: Stacey is still working on the application for the mini grant to get money for spraying. She had to answer 11 questions. Phil edited them. She still needs to do other things. It's a rolling grant. Stacey is hoping she will get the application done before the available grant money runs out.

5. New business:

- a. A new Habitat Hero had not been picked out yet, but now we have one: Matt & Lenora Puglisi at 1162 Gateway Drive. They took out a lot of turfgrass, they put in a lot of shrubs and native plants such as blueberries, Clethra, Viburnums, American Holly, Eastern Redbud, to, among other things, control runoff and create an oasis of conservation. Jeanne K emailed the owner. She reported that the husband got involved. He had a landscape company that planted native species. Their property is still a work in progress. He has cleared some ivy off his property and part of the community property too. He wants to replace driveway with pervious pavers. Stacey will visit them to look over the yard and give him the Habitat Hero sign soon.
- b. Winter Weed Warriors has not happened due to weather this past week. Next weekend, Stacey will not be here.
- c. The Tree Troopers sent out a survey to the people who got a tree. Stacey asked about it last week. He seemed to think there would be some funding. They might change the rules.
- d. Oyster restoration: The end of Labor Day weekend is when the bay oysters are given out to homeowners.
- e. Phil reserved the room for the Harvest Bash. He's ambivalent about it, noting the effort compared to the money collected. We had been making \$1K for all the effort. Now it will be difficult due to the pandemic. Phil had agreed with the county as a membership drive, where we would collect membership at the same time as the fundraiser, but it would be over \$25 per person.
- f. For the Native Plant Sale, we agreed to raise the prices slightly and even still, the plants will be very cheap. Stacey would rather put more effort in the plant sale and scrap the Harvest Bash. We will have the plants delivered to the field the day prior to the sale and do a camp out that night. That will be team build. Let's think about it. Brad K said the Harvest Bash puts our name out there. Jeanne K noted that by November 2022, people would be anxious to get out and socialize. Brad K suggested other ideas to not have too narrow of a focus and make sure we keep our wings spread and do other activities and other parts of conservation and outreach. Stacey said guest speakers can be outreach. Sam Droege asked people to contact congress about NASA Beltsville Agricultural Center to complain about selling off land for condos or whatever. They would like to donate it to the Patuxent River and be a conservation area. Brad will forward a link to all of us. Sam posted something on Facebook about that. We could raffle Sam's pictures or pictures, or raffle Strawberry Festival things. Jeanne suggested an outdoor bash with a fall harvest theme as something different, such as doing something in the field on a full moon. Brad suggested an enchanted forest in the Serene Ravine, or a haunted trail in the ravine with luminarias. We will keep our thinking caps on and consider potentially having some sort of outdoor event in early fall, mid-October. It could be on a weekend day or at night. Phil will look into an outdoor liquor license. Stacey said we got one from the Serene Ravine the first year.
- g. Guest Speaker: Phil thinks about contacting the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Nature Conservancy to see if they could have guest speakers. Broaden what Brad is saying. (Not just native plants). If can

get of those organizations, we could get a foot in the door on some support (financial or technical) on what we do. Phil will contact them directly. Tanya works with the Environmental Center at Anne Arundel Community College. She will reach out to them to see if they have speakers.

- h. Phil asked about the Thank You letter, and how it read (bullet points). He got good feedback from the board. The footnote was expanded too. Stacey suggested the same thing can be on the Membership tab of the CCC website. Phil will work with Bill Szczytko on that.
- i. Membership drive ideas: Stacey looked into magnets and determined it was cost-prohibitive. A 6-inch magnet is \$15 a piece so that idea is nixed. Jeanne M's thought is letting people know CCC's accomplishments is good enough. Phil noted that the Yacht Club inventory maintenance is a pain.
- j. The Unity Gardens grant will be used to purchase the plants for a shade garden by the Little Magothy rain garden under the trees and along the driveway on the left side. The super grant of \$3K would buy a substantial number of plants to plant densely. The plan is to plant two different Christmas and woodland ferns, and put in flowering plants, such as Blue Moon phlox, solidago, foam flower, geranium, columbine, native bleeding heart, wild ginger. Carex from North Creek would be planted in between as a matrix. Carex Eburnea is shorter than Carex Pensylvanica. The plan would also be to rip out daylilies and plant pink muhly grass instead. The Unity Gardens grant opened on Jan 15th, so Stacey will apply for that online. She will mention the runoff from the creek. That would be a good angle. They are only giving out a few. If we don't get the super grant, we can cut the plant list down.
- k. If we do the Native Plant Swap, Stacey suggested and we agreed on shrubs, such as Japanese Barberry, Nandina, and Burning Bush.
- l. Native Plant Sale: Stacey contacted North Creek Nurseries on the Native Plant Sale orders to reserve some plants. She looked at what we had left over from last year's sale and reduced the quantities. Laura Shrank gave Stacey 6 copies of the book, *A Sand County Almanac*, by Aldo Leopold. These books could be prizes. Among CCC members, we could share one to read.

Adjourned 8:37pm.