

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 4/18/2022

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

In attendance (alphabetically): Bill Rappoport, Christine Ryder, Jeanne Klinger, Karen Minor, Larry Jennings, Lydia McPherson-Shambarger, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger,

Call to order 7:05pm.

1. Approval of the March meeting Minutes is pending review.
2. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Phil sent an email with account balance details on Saturday. General Fund \$13,085, Grants \$4,146. Total \$17,232. Out of it, we owe a credit card bill of \$154 and a \$2K grant for last spraying of Serene Ravine. When we go to buy plants for the shade garden, we will take the money out of the Grants fund. He reminded us that this Wednesday is the Broadneck Grill fundraiser night.
 - b. Website: Phil is keeping up with the website and posts when Stacey sends articles or photos. Stacey said that the May CCC Caper article was about the volunteers and what they helped us accomplish. Phil mentioned that on the CCC website, he often posts public domain color photos, such as of flowers.
3. Old business:
 - a. Stacey attended the BOG meeting. Her summary:
 - i. They discussed the status of boat slips and the "Chrono" device that will enable time-lapse photos of Lake Claire to be captured.
 - ii. Outdoor dining continues at least until next year,
 - iii. Beach projects: They are seeing accretion of sand at Lake Claire, and they will be doing more plantings to replace the plants that have been lost at Main Beach. Fairwinds has been holding a lot of sand for us for a couple years, so we must submit plans and permits to enable the sand to be spread back at the Main Beach and Lake Claire Beach. (Christine and Lydia mentioned that a bill has been put forth to allow conservation organizations to have a sped-up process for permits.) The Cape is due to receive \$250K in from the State but it is held up due to disbursement issues. There were overages (\$40K) due to Biohabitats, so the Board voted to pay that out of the \$250K.
 - iv. Stacey told Mary that CCC will participate in the Strawberry Festival, with both a float in the parade and a CCC table. (We will have the opportunity to use our new tablecloth. Phil handed out some of the new stickers in the meeting.)
 - b. Project Clean Stream was very successful, with 234 bags of trash collected and 78 volunteers. A lot of kids from Magothy Middle School and girls from Severn Private School volunteered. Brad said this was the 8th year out of the last 9 years. Suzanne Etgen, Executive Director of WSA, reached out to Stacey and Brad about the event. She put a shout out in the WSA newsletter.
 - c. Sign up for the Plant Swap closed, as Stacey got 25 participants. The final order is \$1,082, a couple hundred of that are member orders, and Stacey helped Jerome Zadera pick out some natives (redbud and northern bayberry). We spent a lot less on the shrubs this year. Friday, May 6th is the tentative date for the American Natives order to be delivered to Karen's house. (It will be some time that week.) Saturday, May 7th 9am-11am is the pickup time. Stacey paired participants up with CCC people. CCC board

members will coordinate with participants to help with digging up bushes. Jeanne K and Bill are floaters to help.

- d. The CBT mini grant is still pending. They have come back to Stacey to ask for clarification on some things. We are still waiting. Christine said the fact they are asking is a good sign.
- e. The Serene Ravine open house happened and went well. A lot of people turned out, and we had pizza, water, and cookies. Thanks to Al and Teresa for their hospitality to use their driveway. Some of people who came out signed the sheet and wrote down their email addresses. This event was an example of an educational/outreach event, so Stacey included this in her application for the Chesapeake Bay Trust grant. Stacey also mentioned that we can also count our weekly Weed Warrior meetings as educational, and that the sign is informational. Phil noted that we should have a speaker night that is educational. We need to pounce on it.
- f. Phil will keep the new CCC logo stickers, and we will hand them out during the Strawberry Festival.

4. New business:

- a. Weed Warriors: Stacey, Bill, Jeanne K, and others have done two Wednesdays already. Stacey noted that they are not getting many weeds yet (only got a bag or two these past two times) because this is early Spring. The sprayers want to come on May 3rd. If nothing is showing by the end of April, Stacey will ask them to delay spraying. We are seeing a little garlic mustard and chickweed. The sunny hill is covered with chickweed and some native annual is covering the hill. Eventually, we should start thinning the *Packera* to other places, since it self-seeds well. Larry's *Packera obovata* self-seeded well in his yard. This week, Weed Warriors will be at the Little Magothy beach to dig up the daylilies and unwanted things that are coming up where we want to plant.
- b. Jeanne M's Earth Day event at the Serene Ravine on Friday April 22nd at 6pm. She has a book to read. She has two copies of it. Olivia West and her friends will do a craft: toilet paper rolls that will be smeared with peanut butter and rolled in bird seed and secured with twine to hang from trees. Jeanne M wanted to do a book swap, so she'll have a blanket for swapping. Jeanne K will bring toilet paper rolls and peanut butter.
- c. The Shade Garden plant delivery will be on Friday April 29th right to the site for the shade plants. Stacey will need help in the morning. They next day, Saturday the 30th, Stacey created two shifts for planting to start at 10am. Stacey will arrive early to lay out the plants. Several have signed up already. Christine will bring 6 10-11 yr. old girl scouts to help.
- d. The Native Plant Sale is Saturday, September 17th. Delivery on Friday, 16th. Phil got confirmation from Ryan that delivery to the sale site is okay.
- e. If anyone has suggestions for ideas for the June Caper article, let Stacey know. You can write the article or give Stacey ideas on what to write. The July/Aug Caper is a double issue, and in that, Stacey will highlight the plants that will be for sale at the Plant Sale. Al will do an article on trees for either the October or November issues.
- f. Christine Ryder offered to help us look at big picture items for CCC to do. She was very impressed. She works for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Works with Rachel Dawson. She would love to help us all and discuss our vision. She mentioned that volunteer hours are matched at \$20 an hour. Over a year, CCC gets many volunteer hours. Stacey has noted volunteer hours in past Unity Gardens

applications. If we can project over two years, for every volunteer hour, a grant dollar, that would be useful. Someone asked if hours include the hours that Phil and Stacey denote to fulfill their responsibilities on the CCC board. Christine said that yes, we could include CCC board's work. Any of that counts as public outreach and education. We'll have to figure out how to track those hours. Christine said we have \$28 an hour in grant funding to leverage. We could go after a grant that goes after two years period of performance. One application, called the Chesapeake Wild, is due next week. It is fish & wildlife habitat oriented. That one is for a \$50K grant. Phil talked about some projects we have wanted to do, such as having the area near the Lake Claire beach parking lot where bamboo was removed to have step pools installed. Other projects include the phragmites at Lake Claire, the Burning Bush infestation at the rain garden, the path that goes from behind the pool, which has lots of erosion and English Ivy. A boy scout wanted to do a project there, but it was too much. The BOG is supportive, but that one is a really big project that will require a lot of money. Christine said we should sit down and draft a list of all the things to do over the two years. "What's the vision?" She said we can hire contractors when needed and then add plantings in and create habitat. We should create a conservation management plan for this area. Cape St Claire has seven different areas in the initial "Capital Improvement Projects for Beaches & Parks". She wants to brainstorm with us and come up with a comprehensive plan. Biohabitats might have written up some things already. They were trying to get all seven areas covered, but that didn't happen. Beau might have some of that documentation. Christine can sit with us and come up with a loose plan enumerating our goals. Phil gave Christine a brief history of CCC. It was formed as a 501(c)(3), created to access grants that the Cape association could not. Christine will follow up with Beau and have that plan as the backbone, and then at that point we will have a document to operate from. Once you have a strategy, you can go after money. Lydia added that the plan will map out how our projects are all connected.

- g. Lydia has completed all of the WSA classes and is working on her WSA capstone project. She will continue where Jeanne M's project left off. Lydia has dates in mind to consider. She's working on a spreadsheet of plants. Phil said that although WSA gives her a certain amount of money, that CCC is more than happy to supplement that money. Stacey encouraged Lydia to apply for the Unity Gardens grant since CCC didn't get it.

Adjourned 8:15.