

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 5/16/2022

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

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

Call to order: 7:04pm.

1. Approval of the amended April meeting minutes.
2. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Phil sent an email with account balance details. General Fund balance: \$12,275, Grants balance: \$2,281, which does not include the \$3,500 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust that we are expecting.
 - b. Phil is keeping up with the website and posted tree photos and Al Todd's blog article.
3. Old business:
 - a. Stacey attended the monthly Board of Governor's meeting. She summarized what was discussed, including: Main beach restoration monitoring and planting of 1,400 new grasses; the Lake Claire Chrono Log; water quality testing; mosquito spraying; hiring beach attendants; the waiting list for boat slips; the continued dredging of Deep Creek; and Steuart Pittman's expected presence on Thursday to discuss Holly Beach, access to the new Bay Bridge span, and the ferry idea.
 - b. Al might mention to Beau that the Chrono Log on the Lake Claire pier doesn't seem to be pointed at the beach.
 - c. In last month's CCC meeting, Christina Ryder talked about working with CCC and developing a long-term plan. She reached out to Stacey and Beau, who directed her to the documents on the CSCIA website. Christina, Stacey, and Beau will arrange to get together to brainstorm, go over some of the documents (pool path, Lake Claire bamboo, etc.), identify priorities, and eventually ask the community about what people want. Stacey asked that we all please think of things we as an organization would like to do to put on the list. Christina mentioned that volunteer hours are valued at \$20 an hour and qualify for matching funds. Stacey urged everyone on the CCC board to keep track on their own hours for volunteer work, such as when Larry works with people, Karen types up meeting minutes, Phil conducts Treasurer duties, Stacey prepares grant applications, etc. Stacey is already keeping a spreadsheet for herself on her own volunteer hours, the number of people who come to weed, and the number of hours they work. (Last week on Weed Warrior Wednesday, Stacey, Vera, Katherine, Stacey's Dad, and a neighbor on Southview came with his 2 boys to weed.)
 - d. The Native Plant Swap went well. We had 25 participants. We sold some shrubs and trees as well. A total of \$1200-1300, including shipping, was spent. We ended up having to deliver shrubs to 6 people. There were a few extra shrubs, of which Bill bought a couple. Last Thursday, Christina's group of girl scouts came to the Little Magothy Shade Garden, so they planted some Witch hazels and 5 Sumac 'Gro-Low'. Four to five Ninebark and two Chokeberries are left. They could be planted at the Serene Ravine. The Girl Scouts across the country have set out to plant 5 million trees in five years, so they are working on that. Whenever people are weeding in the Serene Ravine and people are walking their dogs nearby, they give compliments.

- e. Good news: The Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) grant came through. Of the \$5,000 applied for, \$3,500 was awarded, with contingencies. (In this meeting's agenda, Stacey attached the letter we received from CBT.) The letter states detailed contingencies, such as documents we must submit by June 1st. Stacey must do a draft timeline of monitoring and submit a list of native plants. We have one year to use the money, and we can only reallocate 10% to another category (like plants). We will use the \$3,500 up first before we spend the \$2,000 grant from Western MD RC&D Council. Stacey will work on the documents. Phil and she will sign the agreement and she will upload it to their website. The CBT grant money will go towards spraying Bushkiller in the ravines. The first spraying is scheduled for Thursday, May 26th. Not a lot of Bushkiller has appeared yet because of the cold, so Stacey will probably call it off if there is nothing to spray. She anticipates we will spray at least once in the spring. When that occurs, Stacey is thinking of digging up some plants in a certain area of the Serene Ravine and having that area sprayed. Larry noted that fall is the best time to spray since that is when the energy is going down into the plants.
- f. The Strawberry Festival is Saturday, June 4th. Phil will lend his trailer to use as the float, so he will contact Jeannie M about it. Al said Theresa will help draw up some more things to decorate the float, such as ladybugs and bumble bees. (Al has sheets of white board that Theresa could paint on.) Bill, Jeannie K, and Karen will help decorate the float at 9am at the firehouse. The parade starts at 10am. Jeanne K, Al, Stacey, and Larry volunteered to do a shift at the CCC table. Bill is on the parade committee. Karen will bring the raffle item, and Stacey will bring the raffle tickets.
- g. Ten to twelve kids showed up to the Earth Day event in the Serene Ravine. Olivia and two friends were there with their bird feeder table. Jeanne and kids brought books to be exchanged. The kids had fun.
- h. The Little Magothy Beach Shade Garden: Stacey would like to add one Leopold bench to have a place to sit at some point so this would be a good project if someone is looking to do one. Larry suggested to tell Ryan. Stacey mentioned at the CSC Board meeting that we want a bench there. Phil noted this could be a good project, especially if we have a quote affixed to the bench and have a mulched path. The CSC Board said we can weed anything invasive at the Little Magothy Beach site as long as it's outside of the 100-foot buffer.
- i. For the Native Plant Sale, Stacey already placed the order with North Creek Nurseries. She will contact Natalie at Babikow for what we want to purchase to sell. Al will miss the sale.
- j. Lydia has put together a thorough timeline for her Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) project and she will get something written down to Ryan. At that point Stacey said they will figure out the plants. Ryan will have to approve the plan first before we can proceed. Lydia's project will start where Jeannie's project left off and then continue out.

4. New business:

- a. Weed Warriors have been working at the Little Magothy site. Stacey has seen some garlic mustard at the Serene Ravine. Katie Scott's son's school project will be at the Cape-owned Park Circle property, which is four acres zoned to be a marina (which it will never be). His project will be to pull invasives and plants trees. Stacey gave Katie some redbud trees. This Saturday will be the day to pull invasives. Jeanne K said her son's scout troop mulched a path there and it was a mess then. It's a nice property.
- b. Habitat Hero tour: Stacey will ask Brad to update the flyers. She suggested that for parking, we meet at the club house and carpooled, or at the church. Most that come to the tour live in the Cape, but Stacey will ask to get some passes for participants outside the Cape.

- c. Regarding Al's article on the big trees of Cape St Claire, Stacey said it may be cool to follow up with a contest to identify champion trees and recognize people.
- d. English Ivy removal works together with Al's big trees thing. As part of Jeanne M's WSA class, she did a survey on Facebook about English Ivy. That's another thing to circle back to and have a campaign against English Ivy. Larry thought we could come out to help cut the bottom 3 feet of English Ivy off the trunks of people's trees. We could do one or two trees for people and show them. Phil mentioned a long thread on Nextdoor on English Ivy and people are concerned with how ugly and invasive English Ivy is. Jeanne K said one of the issues is how overwhelming it is. So many people don't know where to start. It's a lot of work, and you must stay on top of it. Larry described how he uses a garden tool to pull out whole clumps of roots. Mowing is effective on the leaves too. Phil suggested we include an article in the Capar on the techniques on how to remove English Ivy and how to prevent regrowth.
- e. Stacey has forwarded us some shout-outs CCC has been getting from WSA. Suzanne Etgen, Executive Director of WSA, contacted Stacey today. They have their Green Give coming up. Their newsletter will appear tonight or tomorrow, and they want to spotlight all the things that CCC is doing here in Cape, especially Stacey, Brad, and Jeanne M, our local watershed stewards. Stacey will send out what they talked about. It was nice how Suzanne highlighted what we are doing. Brad noted that this recognition is part of building momentum for behavioral change.
- f. Al has a suggestion that he tried personally last year that could be a community event: A seed collection followed by a direct seed planting. We could have an event in the Serene Ravine to let people collect the seeds and then cut trenches and plant the seeds the next time in different areas, especially across the creek or the sunny spot in the ravine.
- g. Lastly, we would like to add a person or two to the CCC board. Al Todd agreed to be on the board, and Stacey's sister Ally is interested in joining the Board. We all agreed to approve these new additions to the board. Stacey is also going to ask Christina if she would like to join. If anyone else knows of someone, please let Stacey know.

Adjourned 8:31pm.