

## Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 10/17/2022

The meeting was held at the Cape St. Claire clubhouse.

In attendance (alphabetically): Al Todd, Alison Sayres, Bill Rappoport, Brad Knopf, Christina Fowler, Jeanne Klinger, Larry Jennings, Karen Minor, Olivia West, Phil Ourisson, Rob Corletta, Stacey Wildberger

Call to order: 7:02pm.

1. Olivia West talked first. The project of Olivia's Environmental Literacy 2 class at Broadneck high school is to install a People's Garden behind the school. Existing gardens at the school are inside the school, but this new garden will be located on the school grounds so that the community can see it. It will be to the right of the tennis court. The garden must benefit the community. The project will involve the use of native plant species, sustainable gardening practices, and integrative pest management, which the school already uses as a standard practice. They will build two 4'x8'x2' raised beds. One bed will have pollinator plants to attract butterflies, and the other bed will have vegetables. They will need 64 cubic feet of non-peat bedding material. (Peat soil can release CO<sub>2</sub>, which is bad for the environment.) The garden will be irrigated by an in-ground drip system, which saves water. This will be a People's Garden that will be wheelchair accessible, so they are planning a three foot wide stone pathway for wheelchairs to get through. The goal is to grow healthy food, support food systems, nurture habitat for pollinators and wildlife, foster community collaboration, and benefit the environment. They plan to expand the garden through the years. The budget is a work in progress, but the initial estimate is a sum of two thousand dollars to cover the cost of materials to build the two beds, soil to fill them, pea gravel, a drip irrigation system, a trellis arch for vines, and a bench. The cost of signage has not yet been researched. Olivia is in charge of the beds and infrastructure. Another class will pick out the plants and raise funds for plants, hopefully the bulk of which will be grown from seed, which the school's gardening club can help with. Hopefully, the food produced from the vegetable bed will be donated to charitable organizations such as My Brothers Pantry, or the school itself. For the drip irrigation system, there is a hose port on the school building and an electrical cord protector that will be used to go over or under the sidewalk. During school hours, different teams can take turns on watering the plants for a half hour. Some classrooms have water access so they can connect using hoses through the windows if needed. To inquire about donations of materials, Olivia sent out emails on Friday to Home Depot, Lowes, 84 Lumber, the Garden Club, CSCIA, and CCC. No one other than CCC has responded yet. They hope to start building in about a month. The beds will take 2-3 days to build, and everything should be done by the end of November. The Environmental Literacy 2 class will maintain the beds into the future. Olivia passed around some photos. After Olivia left, we discussed it. Phil suggested we will let them get donations, and we will cover the rest. Brad said we should tell them we will donate. Al suggested we should promise to give a certain amount now, and then say we would help to cover more if needed. All voted in favor.
2. The September CCC meeting minutes were approved.
3. Treasurer's report:
  - a. Phil sent out an email with details on the accounts. We have \$19K on our credit card not paid yet. Our cash on hand. \$41.5-19K. General Fund money available is \$17.5K. Grants (2 sets

Chesapeake Bay Trust grants, of which, \$900 left after two sprays. The other grant, we have about \$1,300, so in all, about \$2,300. We still have funds for two more sprays available for the Serene Ravine. Phil sent a summary of the Native Plant Sale. Out totals sales were \$24,700. Our total cost was \$20,200, but we also have sales tax of \$1,400 owed. Bottom line, we have a profit of about \$3,000. One of the goals of the Native Plant Sale is to charge a low amount and not be in the red. Our profit was about less than 10% of total expenditures. Overall, this sale is a big effort leading up to and during the sale, and a lot of effort was put into selling plants after the sale. As a side note, our shrub sale in the Spring was not counted. Total plant sales were \$26,600. This is an expansion of what Phil sent in his email. We are nicely in the black. We have total available of \$20K for projects, which is what we as an organization spend money on.

- b. On the CCC website, Phil posted Stacey's last blog, and he found some photos that are public domain to use. He just posted the WSA survey on the website. He has not done the mass email to ask to do the survey yet, but Francesca told Stacey that she has gotten a great response so far.
4. Stacey attended last Monday's monthly Board of Governor's meeting. Her summary: Ryan Anderson submitted his resignation. Neil and Beau are picking up a lot of the slack. The search will begin to find someone new; They are doing the dredging at Deep Creek. They were trying to do planting of SAVs, so that was accepted. They will be collecting seeds and seeding the areas and monitoring it. They bought themselves 4-5 years for this project; Fairwinds had requested a tie in, but no decision yet on their request; The Little Magothy River Association asked for money (\$25-30K). The response is a currently a soft No but they are still in talks; Phil had asked Ryan for a projector and screen for the Nature Conservancy talk. Phil talked to Beau to confirm that.
5. Old business:
    - a. Weed Warriors work is still ongoing. They were at the Serene Ravine last week. The different chemical that was used for spraying appears to have been successful in area past the pump house that was sprayed.
    - b. The speaking event with Jackie Specht of the Nature Conservancy on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> is confirmed. Jackie gave Stacey a nice synopsis of her theme, shoreline protection. Brad put out signs at the shopping center. Phil posted on the website, secured a snack tray from Graul's, and will bring a cooler of water. Stacey ordered bamboo disposable cups for water and plates for snacks, and she will bring Harvest Bash tablecloths. We will have a table with CCC brochures, stickers, and calendars, if they will be ready by then. Bill suggested that we all wear our CCC T-shirts. Allison Milligan and Larry agreed to be raffled off for two winners for landscape consulting. Tickets will be 5 for \$20. Next Spring, they would go out and do a consultation. Larry wrote up the Landscape with Native Plants write-up. Jackie's presentation will start at 7:00 pm, then we'll have the drawing, followed by Beau's talk about Cape project, which is the first known project with community, county, state, and federal support. Phil said this will hopefully tie into getting support for other future projects.
    - c. Marita and Jennifer have been compiling Brad's monthly water Saver cartoons into a calendar. Each month's page will have 2 cartoons, and the Calendar will be two sides, so that the calendar can be hung landscape or portrait with the same information. The goal is to have the calendars printed in time to have them at the Nature Conservancy event. We'll have them available for a suggested donation of \$20, and Brad can autograph them. The initial money to buy the calendars would be \$530, which Phil said can be charged on the CCC Credit card. Any proceeds would be split equally

with WSA and CCC after we get paid back the \$530. Stacey thinks that would be a good way to get some contributions. Some of the dates like Earth Day are on the calendar, and each month has some nice tips. Brad's drawings are grayscale so it's inexpensive. Brad says there also is a big piece on what CCC does, and a section on what WSA does. The pages are meant to be pinned onto a bulletin board, so they will be shrink wrapped and not bound. If we do a suggested donation of \$20, we don't have to do sales tax.

- d. Katie's Tree Trooper project is done. They planted 14 trees, including Sumac, American Hollies, Serviceberries, at the Little Magothy site. Katherine, Stacey, and Melissa watered yesterday. It looks good. Richard's Tree Service chipped up the many Burning Bush shrubs that Weed Warriors pulled. The chips should age for a few weeks before being spread them on the path. More shrubs are coming: 3 types of Viburnums, Spice Bush, and Strawberry Bush (*Euonymus Americanus*). Stacey asked everyone to let her know if you want any shrubs.
- e. Lydia's WSA Capstone project was a success. Everyone showed up at Weed Warriors and filled 17 bags on the first night, and then 21 bags the following Saturday. Matthew Toronto loaded the bags and hauled them. He didn't charge CCC at all, saving us \$100. Phil asked Stacey to send him Matthew's logo so he could post it the CCC's website. A lot of leaf matter at the site and some of the bags of mulch were used. Unity Gardens came and installed a sign afterwards. Witch-hazel, Christmas Fern, Pennsylvania Sedge, and Heuchera were planted. Lydia must submit receipts to WSA. She gets \$500 from WSA, and she owes \$400. Phil said we are now all square with that.
- f. Stacey sent out the WSA survey to everyone, and she appreciates the feedback. They are looking for candidates for Class 15. The exciting thing is that the class project will be two projects in Cape. Two homeowners will have a Capstone project in their yard. WSA requested that CCC suggest properties for the projects. Stacey wrote something on the website, and she got 8-9 good candidates. Stacey will send them to Jeff at WSA and he will read through the descriptions and pick the two "winners". He might reach out to the homeowners and look at their yards to decide.
- g. Stacey ordered shrubs. There is a Girl Scout troop that can help with planting this fall, maybe on a Wednesday or Saturday morning.

#### 6. New business:

- a. The Garden Advisors program is our latest fundraiser idea for something Larry, who does Garden Advisors consultations, is already doing. Larry would be one of 2 garden advisors, along with Alison Milligan. Christina Fowler, who joined the meeting tonight, is the beneficiary of Larry's design work. She was our biggest customer during the Plant Sale. In return for a suggested donation of \$500 for a scaled design and plant selections (which Larry suggested), the customer will get valuable garden advice and the ability to order the plants ahead of time with Friday pickup, which is a huge benefit. Stacey might be asked to help someone which she would do. Larry can use 50% of the donations for native plants Cape projects and at Goshen. Larry prepared the verbiage for the fundraiser and asked for edits via email. Phil had a few changes to the wording in Larry's write-up. The motion to approve Larry's write-up as edited was approved.
- b. Robert, Brad, and Al met up and provided notes from their Big Trees meeting. They are looking for feedback. A lot of options for what the Cape Trees program could provide, some of which would require volunteer staff time. Various elements of the program would rely on the ability to deliver information somehow, such as the CCC website, the Cape St Claire Community Association Facebook page, the I Live in Cape St Claire Facebook page, social media, or the Caper. Stacey said all could be used. Phil said that Mary asked for more Caper articles. We could consider paying for

an insert, which is a separate place in the Caper. Stacey said that once or twice a year, the Big Trees article can substitute for the CCC article in the Caper. Phil said that a separate mailer, which goes to Cape and Atlantis, is way out of our budget. Al suggested we could go further and venture into the idea of tree canopy mapping, which is available through the county. Tree canopy coverage can be measured. Other options: Tree Planting projects in areas in need of additional trees, like Tree Troopers or grants, which have money for additional tree planting for climate change. Phil said that one thing of interest is the maintenance of trees, such as cabling trees for high winds. Rob said they could add some educational anecdotes in the Caper about maintenance. There are a lot of myths out there about the hazards of trees. Rob said that Anne Arundel County's website has good information on hazard trees. Rob discussed alternating themes/topics, such as educational, and then Champion trees, etc., cycling through over time. All of these ideas are part educational, part advocacy, and will foster stewardship. We can educate people on how to get free trees as they lose trees. Al said they can get some speakers related to trees. For example, as many don't understand the rules and regulations regarding removal of trees, maybe we could have Bud Reeves, the County Forester, do a talk. The next Caper issue will be the December January double issue. Al said his committee should think about a schedule. Bill is on the DNR resources distribution list, and suggested that the committee advertise that DNR gives away \$25 for tree purchase to make it easier to buy trees. They will use the December January issue to launch the Tree project, asking people to nominate a best loved tree. People may have a favorite tree because of a story. Stacey promised to allocate real estate on the CCC web page for the Cape trees project a few times a year, and we could have a Tree Tip blurb. It would go on the website and Facebook page. Phil will approach Bill S about a new Trees@CCC.org email address that would be tied to Al's new Gmail email address. Rob mentioned in his DC job, they did "pop up arboretum", where they created a QR code on trees that people can look at. It shows a map and with information on the trees. Stacey said Goshen has something like that. Rob said we could do a partnership between the Elementary School and Goshen. Al will come up with something for the December January issue. Stacey will check with Mary on the exact deadline.

- c. This was our annual membership meeting and Christina Fowler was thanked for attending. We must elect our officers and make sure all want to remain. Stacey, Jeanne M, Phil, and Karen are the current officers, but the vice president slot is open. Stacey nominated Brad and he accepted. All were in favor.
- d. Bill reminded us of the Oct 25th quarterly CSCIA meeting.
- e. This Wednesday at the Broadneck Grill is fundraiser night for CCC.
- f. Stacey announced that she, Beau, Ryan, and Christine Rider met to strategize on getting money from U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Biohabitats will revise their technical memo to add information about completed sites and address the other five sites. Stacey said someone else can join that committee. Brad is interested. Stacey will send the plan to the CCC board.

Adjourned 9:09pm.