

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 12/19/2022

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

In attendance (alphabetically): Al Todd, Alison Sayres, Bill Lynch, Bill Rappoport, Brad Knopf, Christine Fowler, Christine Ryder, Karen Minor, Larry Jennings, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger

Call to order: 7:09pm.

1. The November CCC meeting minutes were approved.
2. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Phil sent out an email with details on the accounts. General Fund: \$18,675; Grants: \$605. Phil paid the Maryland 1523 State tax for all the plants we sold this year and T-shirts we sold. We made \$100 this weekend.
 - b. Phil continues to update the website as needed. He needs to get Bill S to modify the page where we have Cape Loves Trees and the Landscaping Advice. Until then, Phil said that he can't make modifications easily.
3. Stacey attended the last Monday's monthly Board of Governor's (BOG) meeting. Her summary: They talked about Little Magothy River Association. They want to do a full dredge of the river, and Cape is hoping to get the sand. Cape decided not to give monetary support; Clubhouse prices are going up as of July 1st; They still could extend outdoor dining (The County just turned yellow from green, Phil said); The BOG is still looking for a town manager. They contracted with Aerotech to screen applications. So far, they have one viable application. They need more applicants and are hoping to have someone by February; Beach attendants are needed for the upcoming swimming season.
4. Old business:
 - a. Weed Warriors report. If it warms up, we'll try to get out there. Tomorrow, Christmas ferns will be delivered. After Christmas, Stacey will try to have an event to plant them. Stacey will send Phil the invoice.
 - b. CCC's donation for Olivia West's People's Garden is paid. The Garden Club and BOG also donated.
 - c. Big Trees: Al reported he started working on website material. He has an opening page and a resources page. He's curious what we think should be on there. Most should be links to find resources. He will send us what he has so far to get our comments. We will start with that and can add to the page over time. He started with the first Story Tree: The dawn redwood at the corner of Latrobe and St Johns Dr. The tree has a good story. He stopped by the owner's house, introduced himself, and had a good conversation with the lady. Marie Dunmyer purchased the seedling for \$30 fifty years ago, in 1972. She was intrigued with the story, and she is happy to have this publicized. Our next Caper will be February. Submissions are due January 12th.
 - d. Stacey's article focuses on birds and the benefits of trees to wildlife. Al had a piece introducing Cape Loves Trees, and Brad's Water Saver was on oak trees.
 - e. Al asked about the Cape Loves Trees emails. Phil will get in touch with Bill S about this.
 - f. Water Saver update: Over the weekend, Stacey, Bill, Jeanne K, and Brad sold four calendars and two books, so we made \$100 over two cold hours. Phil said we broke even on the calendars. Brad

said we got the Magothy River Association check for \$140. Phil is waiting for check from the Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA). They have thirty calendars. Suzanne Etgen, the Director, wants to give them to Board Members of WSA. They paid for higher card stock to do that, spiral bound. They sold some that way. They gave up some back (some of the higher card stock, and some of the original format). We should break even with the slightly higher cost. We discussed that perhaps in end of January or February, if someone joins CCC, they get a calendar for an extra \$5-10 donation. Phil suggested that the first twenty families that join get a free calendar. Brad mentioned that Side Street Framers are almost sold out of the calendars.

- g. Benches: Bill Lynch is resident of the Cape St Claire and teaches at Sollers Point Technical High School in Dundalk, Baltimore County. Stacey had put out a call to build more Leopold benches that are wider. Bill stepped up and volunteered his students to construct them. This is perfect for them. They threw one bench together with the materials they had. For this project, Bill estimated a cost of \$40 each for four benches. For three benches, it would cost \$45 each to build. These estimates are based on his recommendation of using pressure treated lumber and copper coating the bottom ends. After about a month, an additional coating should be applied. We all agreed the benches should be chained and screwed into the soil to prevent theft, like in the Serene Ravine. We agreed to do four benches. Phil suggested that rather than reimbursing Bill from receipts to buy the lumber, that Bill should simply give us an invoice for the four benches we will be buying from him. CCC is tax exempt. (Bill said he will be asked.) Stacey said we would like them by the Spring. Brad said that we will have plaques made. Stacey explained that we will have a quote on each one. Those plaques are \$100 apiece, but we asked Bill if he had another suggestion, such a wood burning Cape Conservation Corps' name on the back of each bench. Bill suggested that if we want to go that route, he can rout in the name, spray paint it, and sand it so that the letters jump out. Bill will play around with the spacing and font size and send us some photos. Bill has constructed a lot of reef balls. His program is carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC. He is doing raised garden beds for an elementary school up there. The motion to have Bill construct the benches passed.
- h. Plant orders for the Native Plant Sale: Stacey reached out to North Creek nurseries. She ordered the same plants as last year. She wants the North Creek order to be Carex and ground covers since plugs do well. Katherine Woods made great notes during and directly following the sale. She gave all that information to Stacey. We found that cutting the flats into smaller sections encouraged sales. Stacey played with the numbers and reported that we are at \$7,345. If we get prepay orders, she may increase quantities slightly. She wanted to order these plants now so that they are reserved. By July, North Creek wants the order firmed up. Cavanaughs and Babikow coming soon. If anyone thinks of something else to try, especially a ground cover, a Carex, or a bigger plant, let Stacey know. We agreed that we need to a better job of pulling pre-orders to avoid future mix-ups.
- i. The Grants Committee meeting was on December 6th. Phil, Brad, Al, Stacey, Christine Ryder, Rob Corletta, two CSCIA board members attended. It was a good group, and they got a lot accomplished. They will go after a seventy thousand dollar grant from U.S. Fish & Wildlife that can be used for planning and design work. They would find out in August if it is approved or not but wouldn't get the actual funds until January 2024. Once they know they will get funding, they can start on planning. There is also a county grant of thirty thousand dollars for planning they can go after. Overall, there is potential for a hundred thousand dollars, which would go towards paying the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and a designer, likely Bio Habitats, whom they worked with last time. This money would go towards Cape St Claire's additional sites three through seven. Stacey will take the Bio Habitats technical memo and cull out the stuff that applies to these five sites. Brad

said Christine did a nice job of walking them through the timeline and what will be required. It was a very productive meeting. The intent is to get the planning grant first. Then if they get the design, the next year would be to go after the big money (one million from Fish & Wildlife) for implementation, which would take two years. Cape learned a lot from past projects. These are smaller sites and projects. Phil noted that these projects would not involve the Federal government, this it will take less time. The next steps: Beau will line up a meeting with the Alliance in the first full week of January, then the Grants Committee will meet the end of January.

- j. WSA class update: Stacey and Brad attended Lydia's graduation. She wasn't there due to a work trip. It was a great in-person celebration. Stuart Pittman was there. Another person, Emily, whose girl scout troop planted trees, has joined for the next year's class. We may have another project to be involved in. Maybe a book theme that goes along one of the paths, such as a little library where people can sit on a bench and read. They will have a class project in the Cape. Stacey had gotten responses from people with ideas on projects to do. Jeff Popp, director of WSA, decided on one project rather than two, which he had originally said. He ran the project by Stacey, and they think it will be a good fit. He will set up a site visit with her and see her yard.

5. New business:

- a. Invasive Shrubs/Plants Swap: Current ideas are Burning Bush again, and Miscanthus. We should think about what to swap. We will discuss in next month's meeting.
- b. Bill said the Unity Gardens' application deadline is coming soon. Stacey said we won't be going after that this time.
- c. The Montessori school off Rt 2 did a native seed gathering. They sold their seeds for \$300 and told us that the kids wanted to donate to CCC on Giving Tuesday, so we received the whole amount. The Montessori school got a Unity Gardens grant. Stacey helped Jessy Oberright with the plan and the grant application. Al suggested sending them a free calendar. Next time we plant at the Serene Ravine, we can invite her class to plant with us.
- d. 2023 calendar of events: We should start thinking about that.
 - i. Early in the year: Perhaps have a second speaker event at the clubhouse. We could do on a weeknight or use a free room at the library. Phil suggested a speaker on oysters based on a Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) article he shared with Brad. Phil will put this in Brad's hands. Brad said that the downside is that individual growers are getting bigger and bigger all the time and are looking to partner with large organizations. Phil said maybe he could talk to us. They may be able to talk to us about what they are doing in the whole watershed basis. Brad thought Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) could be a good idea, since they took over from Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on the oyster program. Phil thought we could hear about what they do or how it's progressing, etc. Stacey said Larry might have some good suggestions. Brad suggested somebody local like someone from Horn Point or ORP, but he is hesitant about CBF. Larry suggested someone. Phil said that weekdays in March are wide open. Larry and Brad will figure someone out and circle back. Al said we talked about a tree speaker, such as Bud Reeves to talk about ordinances, this Spring. Al will reach out to Bud on his availability sometime in March.
 - ii. April: Project Clean Stream is the first Saturday in April. One in Cape and then the second cleanup near headwaters of spawning, below Lake Waterford in May.
 - iii. Weed Warriors kickoff in later in April when the Packera Aurea is blooming. We start weeding in early April but then have the kickoff later in April when blooming.

- iv. Plantings in Little Magothy Beach site in late April or early May.
- v. Phil said we'll have to figure out if we need another spray of Bush Killer vine. We have \$350 left from the grant for that. CCC can kick in more if needed.
- vi. Al suggested that October would be a good time to replant trees that might die from the spraying.
- vii. May is when we have done the invasive shrubs swap. Since the Garden Club sale is the 20th, let's maybe do the swap on the 12/13th.
- viii. June: Habitat Hero tour. Three sites: 1) Current one who is ecstatic (Brendan); 2) Stacey will talk to Rob Woods on Lake View Lane who has done a lot of invasive removal, planted Spice Bush, removed Phragmites, and planted natives; 3) Larry's property is last on the tour. Usually, the date is the 3rd or 4th Saturday in June. June 17th is the tentative date.
- ix. July and August: We typically do nothing in these months.
- x. September Native Plant Sale: the 23rd is the 4th Saturday. Phil will look into availability of the field.
- xi. October: Plant trees in the Serene Ravine. The goal will be to plant trees. Partner with WSA for \$20 trees. We could tie that into Cape Loves Trees. Al suggested we partner with Tree Troopers and have pick-up the same day.
- xii. November: Oyster talk on November 3rd.
- xiii. Bill suggested maybe Nancy Lawson to expound on her homeowner efforts related to the Capital article. Stacey said we should do that next year.

Adjourned 8:32pm.