

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 1/16/2023

In attendance: Al Todd, Alison Sayres, Bill Rappoport, Christine Fowler, Jeanne Klinger, Jeanne Martin, Karen Minor, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger

Call to order: 7:09pm.

1. The December CCC meeting minutes were approved pending Stacey's possible edits.
2. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Phil sent out an email with details on the accounts. General Fund \$15,056; Grants \$2,387. From the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) grant, we have \$250 left which is specified for spraying. The \$2K grant left is also for control of Bushkiller. The Western Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Council and Rich Mason of U.S. Fish & Wildlife arranged it. Phil hasn't received the \$500 from Wells Fargo yet. Not yet in the ledger are the \$155 we received from the sale of calendars. We have been offering a free calendar for new memberships. This week, Phil asked Bill to come over and review what Phil has done as treasurer over the course of the year. Bill reported that Phil has a tremendous amount of computer files. Bill passed out and gave a summary of the audit. Phil thanked Bill for reviewing. Phil mentioned that he was tasked to reserve the clubhouse in March. That is done, as well as reserving the signboard for March. He also made the reservation of the signboard for the Native Plant Fest. The exact date is still up in the air because of Cape Cleanup. We are waiting until we hear more about that date, but our tentative date for the Plant Sale is Saturday, September 23rd. Phil also asked last month about the Leopold benches. Phil got screw anchors, chains, and we will either use a frame with gravel or use concrete to prevent wood-to-soil contact. (The scouts could build the concrete pads using self-leveling concrete that sets up quickly.)
 - b. Regarding membership dues, Al asked if the CCC bylaws include how membership is defined. We have only 25 members. We have membership income and we have received \$2,200 in donations. Jeanne M got birthday donations on Facebook. Stacey said that if someone donates \$20 or more, they are a member automatically. The Broadneck Grill fundraiser generates about \$200 every three months. Stacey said we have a recurring donator of \$20 a month. Wells Fargo contributes. The donations from Wells Fargo go under Grants. On the agenda, we should discuss doing a membership drive. In the December issue of the Caper, Stacey addresses this. Phil suggested having a half page as a membership form in the Caper. Jeanne K said she knows people who have said that they wonder what they are required do if they are members. She wants them to know there's nothing to do. Stacey responded that she always emphasizes that there's nothing required to do, but all efforts are voluntary. Al said there's a different approach to asking for donations vs. getting membership. As a director of CBT, Al pointed out that they differentiated. We should clearly define what we should give people for their membership. Jeanne M made a list defining what membership gets you and what we do with their money. Al suggested invitations to exciting presentations, having a "Members Line" at the Plant Sale, or allowing presales to members. Al emphasized that this is an area that could use some thinking.
 - c. Phil talked to Bill S about changes to the website (which is in WordPress) regarding the Big Trees changes and Larry's consulting services. Phil will work on the website next week.
3. Stacey attended last Monday's monthly Board of Governor's (BOG) meeting. Her summary: They hired a new town manager. They finalized the hiring process at the community meeting. The new town manager is

a retired police officer who lived in Annapolis, but then moved to St. Margaret's Landing and worked in the Cape. It seems like he will be a great fit. Jeanne K said he is very enthusiastic. He will be starting within a week or so which will be good for getting him up to speed before hiring beach attendants; Phil also said we now have twelve people on the Board of Governors, which is a full slate. Three of the new board members who volunteered had recently moved to the Cape. Phil tried to talk to two that were there about CCC. Thirty-two people attended the meeting; The dredging started this week at Deep Creek and will continue for a few weeks, at about \$65-75K cost to Cape, but it will come out of the Piers Committee budget. Later this year, the project will involve growing grasses at the community college, and in a few years, the grasses will be planted in the beaches; The budget was discussed and passed. They are increasing the Special Community Benefit District (SCBD) tax by \$10, totaling \$210 now in property taxes.

4. Old Business:

- a. As Phil mentioned, the speaker event will be the evening of Wednesday, March 8th. Al confirmed the date with Bud Reeves, the forester for Anne Arundel County, who will speak. Al will get specifics on the topic. We want to know all the County laws and ordinances about removing trees. Stacey would like to also like to focus on the benefits of trees and the programs available to homeowners. Doors open at 6:30, and starting at 7:00, Bud will speak for about 45 minutes, followed by a 15-minute Q&A period.
- b. Bill Lynch Leopold benches update: The school just finished the semester, and a new one begins on Wednesday. Construction will begin in February. He mentioned that the wood will be pressure treated and he'll apply a clear coat on it. Bill will reach out to us on completion to talk about signage (routing CCC's name) and delivery. We could maybe have sponsors of the benches or alternatively, do a dedication or memorial. Each bench will cost \$40.
- c. Weed Warriors planted 64 Christmas Ferns in about 15 minutes, then they got to work on removing English Ivy, and ended up filling 17 bags.
- d. Stacey gave Rob Wood the Habitat Hero award. Stacey asked Bill to take a photo of Rob Wood with the sign. Stacey will send Rob a couple questions that she has. She wrote up a blurb about him that will be in the February Caper.
- e. We got 15 free Atlantic White Cedars from Jeff Popp of WSA. We will be removing more Burning Bush and want to establish the cedars in place of it. For future nice days, Stacey will send something out in case someone can show up to help with this effort.
- f. Al on Big Trees: Al submitted the article to Stacey for the Caper and website content to everyone. Al's write-up was too much for just one Caper article. The first part was put in the December/January issue. The bullet points about finding Story Trees and Marie Dunmeyer's story (with one photo of it) and the English Ivy topic will go into the February Caper. Stacey was able to write a little box summary about Rob Wood as the Habitat Hero and the March dates for the speaker event and start of Weed Warriors. Al was thinking of doing another article in the March Caper. In it, he will mention Brad's huge oak, along with a challenge for people to attest to having a bigger tree. The theme would be a "Champion Willow Oak Tree". Al will talk to Rob Corletta about penning the next article for tree advice for the April Caper.
- g. Beach replenishment: Stacey had a meeting with Amanda Bland and Laura Todd of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, along with Brad, Larry, Beau, and Christine Ryder, about what their thinking is. Amanda and Laura agreed they want to partner with Cape and be our fiscal sponsor. They will

help with grant writing and administrative tasks, and Christine will help ghost write. They will partner to apply for the grants for planning and drawings. Grants applications open in February, are due March/April, and approval notification will be August. We would be going after \$70K. If approved, the money would not be disbursed until January 2024. Cape still has the \$200K in their pocket. If approved, the money would be used to start the planning process. Planning and permitting would take about a year, ideally. The focus of work would be on the next five sites. Next year is slated for applying for bigger money (hundreds of thousands to a million) and work would have to be completed within two years. Al said the idea is to try to apply to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for the larger grant. The small watershed grants go up to \$500K. Stacey said those five sites (other than Park Circle) are smaller. Christine mentioned it would be good to have a hook that sets us apart from other applicants. We are seeking support from the County. This can be a model for other communities. We hope to get Erik Michelson, head of Anne Arundel County's watershed restoration program, to support us in the grants process. Beau will work on getting letters of support. CCC would also write a letter of support and any other groups in support of it. Hopefully, the committee will come up with a date to meet again. Christine and the Alliance will handle the write-up for applying for the grant. Al said we can build on what CCC does, such as volunteer engagement and the educational things we do. Stacey keeps track of hours we spend. We should tell Stacey how many hours we spend on writing meeting minutes, writing Caper articles, writing plant tags, and attending meetings. Stacey wants to compile the big picture of hours we are contributing. Stacey asked that if anyone wants to be on the grants committee, to let her know.

5. New Business

- a. Wells Fargo: Stacey sent a breakdown. \$1,360 is what we got in grants from Wells Fargo. Stacey does a payroll deduction, and Wells Fargo matches that. Stacey got \$500 for being on the CCC board in 2022, and she got \$550 for volunteer hours.
- b. We have gotten \$155 so far for memberships, and we have been giving out free calendars for members. Brad and Stacey have them. We discussed other ways to increase membership/donations. Jeanne K is a member of the Nature Conservancy because it has value. You can go on their properties, watch webinars, and get the magazine, but the main reason is that they do good work. We should emphasize that we are a local organization doing good work. One point is that if you are giving \$25 to the Nature Conservancy, can you find the money to give to us? Jeanne M said we need to enumerate how CCC can positively affect members of the community, especially people who live here but don't care about the environment. We need to find a way to attract these people. Stacey has written about how CCC is of value to the community in different ways. Christine F suggested a first-year free membership, but then asking those members for \$20 the second year. Al, Alison, and Jeanne K suggested a Members Only line at the Plant Sale or letting CCC members in 15 minutes early; Jeanne M said we could ask for a \$25 donation to be in the fast line. Advertise it as a donation; Al said there is a science for this stuff. There are people in the Cape that are fundraising consultants. Right now, it's confusing. Should we have a membership drive or a fundraising drive? The approach to either is different, depending on what we want. Phil said we have to report to the Cape how many members are CSCIA residents (80%). To be a recognized organization, we need to report our membership and the percentage of membership. Christine Fowler and Audrey started Cape Tots years ago and wrote down a list and at least 80% had to live in the Cape; Al suggested we talk to Beau to get clarification on what is required. Are we required to be a membership

organization? Stacey said she keeps track of anyone who helps on our projects. Jeanne K said the big question is the idea that having a membership revolves around using the facilities at no cost each month because we are a recognized organization. Rental of the clubhouse is \$35 an hour. We should get more information.

- c. Jeanne M suggested we do something for Earth Day. Maybe on Wednesday April 19th at the Serene Ravine, we could get a Girl Scout troop member to read books and have a small craft. We could combine the Earth Day and Weed Warriors kick-off that month when Packera in bloom. Or move the kick-off to the Little Magothy Beach site. The tentative date is Friday April 21st. The issue with the wine is because it's nice to have it at Al's house. We should circle back to dates. Jeanne will pick a couple books and come up with some craft ideas. Painted rocks would be cute. Pizza from 6:00-7:30pm. Everyone should please look for around rocks. As a second activity, we could also do dream catchers.
- d. Project Clean Stream is Saturday, April 1st. Bill said WSA is offering a new Tree Troopers course in March.
- e. Invasive Swap: Stacey did an informal poll on the I Live in Cape St Claire Facebook page asking about what plant or shrub people would prefer to remove. Butterfly Bush was the top vote by far. Grasses were second. The removed shrub or plants would be substituted by shrubs or plants of similar growing conditions. Substitutes could be New Jersey Tea, Clethra Alnifolia, Itea Virginiana, Buttonbush, or perennials Joe Pye Weed or Smooth Aster. We decided on Butterfly Bush with three choices as a replacement.
- f. Phil offered to have a viewing party with us of that Nature Conservancy webinar that he loved. He offered for us to gather at his house to do a viewing. He will send an invite after he comes back from vacation.
- g. Stacey has Virginia Bluebells on order (600+) flats that we can plant in the Serene Ravine and Little Magothy Beach site. Virginia Bluebells is an early bloomer, and it spreads. The Phlox put on a good show. The Little Magothy Beach site has Columbine, Phlox, Foam Flower, Christmas Ferns, and some fall perennials like two Asters. Jeanne M said she has some Goldenrod and Packera. We need to spread the Packera at the Serene Ravine up on the hillside.

Adjourned 8:47.