

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 2/20/2023

In attendance: Al Todd, Alison Sayres, Bill Rappoport, Brad Knopf, Cathy Gazzo, Christina Fowler, Jamie Myers, Jeanne Klinger, Karen Minor, Larry Jennings, Phil Ourisson, Rob Corletta, Stacey Wildberger, Tonya Powell

Call to order: 7:09pm.

1. The January CCC meeting minutes were approved as amended and with edits.
2. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Phil sent out an email with details on the accounts. General Fund \$15,475; Grants \$2,997. Phil received the \$580 from Wells Fargo.
 - b. Phil approached Bill S about incorporating Cape Loves trees and Garden Advisors into the CCC website. The website is still in WordPress but a supported with a new software. He had to change things and move all over. Not finished yet, but Phil was able to get a few updates in, such as Habitat Hero, Stacey's blog post, Project Clean Stream, and the Broadneck Grill fundraiser night. Bill hyperlinked the minutes, and Phil succeeded to post new minutes files. He also updated the dates. Phil told Bill we still need a page called Cape Loves Trees and Garden Advisors that we can add to periodically, and the page called Projects that can be modified. Stacey said that while Phil was on vacation, she had a zoom call with Bill with suggestions. Phil spent hours figuring it out and learning the new process, eventually with success.
3. Stacey attended last Monday's monthly Board of Governor's (BOG) meeting. Her summary: Cape St Claire was to be included in the latest dredge, but it didn't work out. We got a little bit in Deep Creek because the equipment they had was enormous. They couldn't get to where we needed the spur dredges. The permit is good for 4-5 years. We could partner up with another dredge in a couple of years. We are still planning on getting into the SAP; The Grants Committee grant opened from F&W. they will start working on writing the grant in conjunction with Christine Ryder; Christine wrote up a draft of a bubba award for the work done at Little Magothy. It's an award the Alliance is applying for on Cape's behalf regarding the work done on Lake Claire last year.
4. Old Business:
 - a. One reminder: If it's a planting or weed warrior event, Stacey is keeping track of hours. If it's something else, send Stacey our hours this week so she can compile it and include it in the grant writing. If we did something ahead of the plant sale, tell her that.
 - b. Plant Swap: rid Button Bush. Now 1 shrub, a 3 gallon of either Ruby Spice cultivar or 16 Candles, both Clethra. 3rd choice is Button Bush. 8 people signed up so far. Limited to 25 people. It's early now. Some people who signed up already dug up their BB. Phil needs to mention that on the website. The day for pick up will be Saturday, May 13th at Karen' driveway. Alison Milligan will pick them up for \$200 rather than what the nursery charges, which is 400. Schott's nursery in Westminster.
 - c. Big Trees: Al said he's getting lots of emails on stories and on FB, we have gotten comments on the bigger trees they have. He wrote up Brad's Tree article for the March Caper, Rob wrote up on pruning tips for trees and shrubs, and Stacey's write-up on Spring ephemerals. Phil found some nice photos of trees. Stacey will send some mini articles to Phil that will be under the Big Trees section

of the website. Phil said that Trees page still needs some work. Brad said we have some traction and momentum already. Phil will contact his neighbor about the huge oak who will have a good story about it.

- d. Bench update: Bill emailed Stacey. They will start on them this week or next. Phil got all the anchors ready so that the benches can be chained and anchored to concrete in the ground. We must identify the locations. Stacey is thinking one along the trail, facing the water near Brad's sign, and the other facing the rain garden at the top. Stacey will check with Beau. The one with concrete closer to the water might need a permit.
- e. In less than a month is the Bud Reeves event. Someone should arrive at the Clubhouse at 5:35 to set up chairs and the projector. Phil reserved the sign board for 5 days prior to the event, and he checked with Leslie and confirmed that we have the room. He sent an email to Frank about the projector and screen to put in room. Stacey asked Brad if he could do a poster and flyer that talks about Weed Warriors and Project Clean Stream--the kickoff date and the continuation every Wednesday. Brad posted his notice of the speaker event at the Shopping center. Phil will ask Graul's for a platter again, such as a cheese platter with crackers. We'll provide water and do BYOB. Bill created a donation jug to have there. Al Todd asked if he and Theresa could donate a framed glass print of the Magothy River to donate. We all agreed Yes.
- f. CCC has a new sign for the sign board, it's all 1 piece that says www.CapeConservationCorps.org. They charged up for it. It won't save up much space (it's 8 ft long), but we can have the whole website showing on the sign board for CCC events.
- g. Phil said we need the sign board for Earth Day. It's available for three days but he needs the wording for it. Phil asked about the Weed Warriors kickoff. Stacey said that's one event so Yes.
- h. Project Clean Stream is Saturday, April 1st from 9am to noon.
- i. The Weed Warriors kickoff event is April 4th. The party with Earth Day will be on Friday, April 21st. Jeanne M will be out of town. We need to find someone else. Stacey would like an alternative to painting rocks, which is messy. Alison suggested Stacey check with Olivia and if not, Alison can figure something out. (Olivia led a bird seed craft last year.) We decided on 5:30-7:0pm. We'll do at it at Little Magothy Beach rather than the Serene Ravine this year.
- j. Ally is in charge of the Green Team at Windsor Farm. They are looking for a project to partner with the community. She was thinking a Saturday Weed Warriors weeding. Stacey suggested it to be the April 1st cleanup, to remove ivy at Little Magothy Beach. Ally thinks that would work. She will talk to her principal.
- k. The date of the next Broadneck Grill fundraiser night is the Wednesday, April 19th. It's posted on the website. We got over \$240 for the last one. (Food at the bar and restaurant is included.) Stacey will try to get her book club meeting to meet there on that night.
- l. We discussed donations vs. membership. What you get for your membership is often not tangible stuff. Phil investigated us being required to have memberships to be a recognized organization. They said that the board just has to be comprised of at least 80% Cape residents. We have some leeway. One of Al's suggestions is a big push for end-of-year for donations. Phil said end-of-year donations that come in count for the next year. The main question: should we just have corporate sponsors (see Stacey's list) to go with big money or keep going with small membership fees? Stacey said someone approached her asking if we do sponsorships. Goshen does it.
- m. Stacey handed out a list of donor sponsorship levels with donations and tangible benefits for each level. The money amount level can be tweaked. The lower ones can be the bread and butter. We don't want to cut the little small businesses out. For Garden Advisory services, the suggested

donation can be \$250. Larry mentioned that small pollinator garden, pick up plants would be values at \$200. Al suggested that membership can be mentioned on the grant application. Brad said there's no reason to get rid of memberships. Ace Hardware donated \$15K to Goshen, for example. Phil doesn't think the sponsorship level should not have the same Garden Advisor time as \$250. Cathy could envision maybe an individual may want to be a sponsor even if she's not a business. Stacey mentioned that in her write-up too. Larry could see it as sponsoring plants for Little Magothy View. Stacey and Phil voiced their opposition to having logos and names on signs, in favor of names being listed instead on the website. The levels would be scaled. Stacey thinks most of our donations will be \$1K and below. Phil said we should have proportional benefits for each level. Karen suggested written vs. verbal acknowledgements of sponsors at fundraising events. We all agreed that the "early" line at Plant Sale would be offensive, but pre-sales should be a benefit. We discussed the benefits that Stacey proposed for each level.

- n. Phil asked about Broadneck Grill. Stacey said they would be grandfathered in, since they have donated so much to us over the years. ("Instant Goldenrod".) Graul's, Ace, Richard's and other tree companies, Realtors, financial people, Bella's, Matthew's Hauling, and other businesses who have donated to CCC in the past should be grandfathered in at some level. We agreed on no exclusivity, such as for a Realtor. Larry suggested Realtors could give Garden Advisor sessions as a gift to their client homebuyers.
- o. Plaques could be nice as a benefit, or a digital certificate which could be displayed on the sponsoring business's website.
- p. Christina added that her brothers in D.C. have volunteers that plant the people's garden and maintain it. We agreed that wouldn't be something we'd want to do. Alison suggested a private tour of our projects. Sponsors should be able to have their business cards in the Sponsor table at all CCC events.
- q. Stacey will tweak the suggestions and send out for finalizing. Think about whom we want to approach.

5. New Business

- a. Brad will contact Magothy River Association about possible locations. Stacey told Olivia to try Environmental Concern for Wild Celery. Dustin, who works at Homestead Gardens, is always trying to get them to buy more natives and stop selling non-natives.
- b. The Strawberry Festival is Saturday, June 3rd. We agreed to having a trailer in the parade and a table at Main Beach. We can have the CCC table situation next to the Girl Scout troop and having a little game. Jeanne K and Tonya will decorate the trailer at the firehouse, and Brad and Ally will help with the parade.
- c. The Habitat Hero Tour will start at 10am at Rob Wood's house on Lake View Lane. We can park at the Serene Ravine and walk to his property off the far end of the path. The tour will continue with a short drive to Brendan Curran's, then to the yard of Larry Jennings, who will host a little lunch afterwards.
- d. The Watershed Stewards conference will be on Saturday March 25th at 10am. The \$90 ticket will get you into the event, which will feature speakers followed by a Happy Hour. Stacey and Brad are going.
- e. The Tree Troopers class this year will be five one-hour sessions over 5 weeks. Stacey will look into it.
- f. Stacey gave an overview of the Spring planting budget. Last year, she ordered Virginia Bluebells, which are high and pricey. She ordered 6 flats for our projects. The Carex Amphibola is doing

really well at Little Magothy Beach. The total North Creek Nurseries order is \$1K. Plants from Babikow, such as Phlox, Iris Cristata, and Lady Fern, will be put in at Little Magothy Beach, and some will be used in Deep Creek at Lydia's capstone project area. Juncus will be planted along the stream in the Serene Ravine. The total for the plants is \$2378. Phil pointed out that this kind of expenditure is what CCC money is used for, so no problem.

- g. We still have 15 Atlantic White Cedars at Al's house. Ten will go in the Serene Ravine, and five will be planted at Little Magothy Beach. They are about five feet tall now.
- h. Tonya introduced a friend, Jamie Myers, who grew up in the Cape, and whose parents still live here. Since 2019, Jamie has been going for her master's at Stevenson University in Owings Mills. Jamie wants to do her capstone project partnering with the community via CCC. She's hoping to write about CCC and our projects. She's welcome to keep coming to meetings and to reach out to us with any questions. Phil explained how Friends of lake Claire started, told her about how Eco Goats started at lake Claire and then moved on to the Serene Ravine, allowing us to start working in the Serene Ravine. In 2016, we incorporated Cape Conservation Corps. Stacey talked about some of our past projects and upcoming ones. Larry and Phil also added some information on grants.
- i. We welcomed Cathy Gazzo to the meeting. Cathy is a long time Realtor in Cape St Claire. She's on for the \$500 level sponsorship.
- j. At Weed Warriors today, Stacey recognized Brad, Bill, Jeanne K, Melissa, Catherine, and Ellen for weeding with her.
- k. Stacey did a Facebook birthday fundraiser and received \$100.

Adjourned 8:51pm.