

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 3/20/2023

In attendance: Al Todd, Bill Rappoport, Bill Lynch, Brad Knopf, Cathy Gazzo, Christina Fowler, Jeanne Klinger, Karen Minor, Larry Jennings, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger

Call to order: 7:07pm.

1. The February CCC meeting minutes were submitted late, so will be reviewed later.
2. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Account balances: Phil sent out an email with details on the accounts. General Fund \$15,758; Grants \$3,057.
 - b. Website: Because of the transfer to the new system, website editing is different. Phil now has directions from Bill S on making updates. Al sent some notes about structure and organization, suggesting something like a Sitemap. Stacey will forward those notes to Bill. Larry suggested we review the notes and consolidate them before sending an email to Bill. Al cautioned that if Bill S. leaves, we would be stuck and have some difficulty making any changes to the CCC website. He asked if we should think about using a small amount of budget to hire someone to put the website on a platform that is easier to edit. Brad agreed that it would be wise to research another system.
3. Stacey attended last Monday's monthly Board of Governor's (BOG) meeting. Her summary:
 - a. The meeting went into closed session at 8:20. They will be assessing the trees in different Cape properties with Christy of Richards Tree Service to see if any trees need to be removed. It would be good to have a conversation about what would be removed. Larry added that Christy is an arborist.
 - b. Twenty-five people, including Bill and Brad, came out for the beach cleanup of more seawall rocks that had fallen, blocking access. It took 40 minutes.
 - c. On April 27th at the Cape clubhouse, the Broadneck Council of Communities will host Congressman John Sarbanes, our District 3 Representative, and other politicians will be present to discuss the potential for a Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) at Holly Beach Farm, a 300-acre tract off Whitehall Rd owned by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF). There are public access conditions on the deed. CCC should attend to hear what they have to say. Many are either for or opposed to establishing it as a CNRA. Brad said one proposal is ferry access from Sandy Point to it, and that non-weekends would be feasible. If it was public property, people would want to enjoy it. The ferry would connect points of interest in the area for tourism.
 - d. On the Grants Committee activities, the Cape board voted to approve writing the grants to submit. It's due April 20th. Al asked if, as part of the Grants Committee, he should do anything about that. Stacey said it's in the hands of the Alliance and Christine, but CCC will get to review it and give feedback
 - e. The Little Magothy River association (LMRA) is applying for full dredging permits for 2023 or 2024 and they will coordinate with Cape to get the resulting approximate 6,700 cubic yards of sand. This could put us close to the amount in 3-5 years vs. 15 years. Phil mentioned accretion is occurring at Lake Claire and Main Beach.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Big Trees Committee: Al said they are continuing to write content for social media and the Caper. They have had many requests from people to come out and look at their trees, so Al and Rob have

been going around the Cape to looking at them. The committee has nominations for oaks (one 13 ft), an Eastern Red cedar, and a 12-ft diameter poplar. They measure the tree diameters at 4.5 feet from the ground. The articles and posts have been generating interest. Brad suggested a tour one day. Al agreed that a Champion Tree tour would be good, and he mentioned that, there's a large remaining persimmon tree, probably the largest persimmon in the Cape, next to the playground at Main Beach. Stacey suggested a door hanger about removing ivy. Al and Rob said they have people excited about his and Rob's visits to talk to residents about their trees, and it would be good to leave something behind like a CCC message. They are keeping a list and will eventually post it, which will stimulate some more interest. The article coming out will be on tulip poplars. Stacey asked that the article be two separate pages. Al said he would like some door hangers on ivy growing up on trees. Stacey asked Al and Rob to come up with a flyer with information about CCC, such as bullet points of CCC's accomplishments.

- b. Bill Lynch reported that the benches have been constructed. He added that his wife loves the Leopold benches in the Serene Ravine. As the last touch, he said that, into the upper back rest, they could rout "CCC" or a smaller font "Cape Conservation Corps". They can rout it, spray paint it, and then sand the board. Phil voiced his preference for "Cape Conservation Corps" routed on the front and suggested that later we add plaques. Al suggested a plaque with a QR code. The font will get appropriately sized to fill out across, and we agreed that printed letters are more legible than cursive. Phil has the anchors and he asked Bill to drill the hole. Phil bought all the anchoring supplies and will coordinate with Bill on what he needs in the wood. (One I-bolt per bench). Bill said he can store the benches. He asked when and where we want them. We agreed to have the benches installed in May at the Little Magothy Beach Park -- one behind the rain garden sign, facing the tree and shade garden, one on each side in the woods along the path, and the fourth in front of a tree by the water. They only need 3 sets of those feet. Brad said if we ask the county, it's a small impact. After discussion, we agreed on pavers rather than concrete, which would be easier to install. Al mentioned that people are always trying to get rid of pavers. Stacey suggested an ask for excess pavers on the Facebook Buy Nothing page. If we can't get free pavers, Brad volunteered to buy some. Stacey said mid-April would be great to get the benches from Bill.
- c. The Invasive Plant Swap: Twelve people have signed up. Stacey is partnering with Alison Milligan who will add to our order. If we order 25 or more shrubs, the price goes down. Alison is doing a lot of yards this Spring, so she wants to combine to get a lower price per shrub. They will be delivered to her for a \$400 charge. Stacey cut the order down a bit: 20 Clethra Ruby Spice, Sixteen Candles, Button Bush, and a couple others. If anyone wants them for their own yard, it's \$25 for a 3-gallon shrub. We could perhaps do the swap in May. The date depends on when they come. We should give Stacey our orders by the end of March.
- d. The clubhouse speaker event with Bud Reeves was a success overall, and we were happy with the good turnout. Al suggested to Bud to do his own presentation on trees, as we agreed that trees were a popular topic. Questions from various audience members about their own personal situations that didn't remotely apply to most of the audience took up time and frustrated many attendees. Cathy suggested that in the future, we ask ahead of time that questions wait until the Q&A session at the end. We received \$320 in donations and five new memberships. Although we paid a fee for renting the clubhouse, in all, the event was worth it. Al asked about future speakers. In November, we have

a free clubhouse night. We don't have anything in mind yet. Larry said he could get a speaker on oysters, and Al added that a speaker topic on the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay would be good. Christina said she would be more interested in what's being done in the Bay now. We are open to ideas for that night. Al said that the advertising, sign board, and flyer were great.

e. Upcoming events:

- i. Nice weather is forecast for this Wednesday, March 22, so we will be weeding from 5:00-6:30pm at Little Magothy Beach.
- ii. The 31st of March is the State of the Magothy presentation at 6:30pm at the Health and Sciences Building at Anne Arundel Community College.
- iii. Project Clean Stream will be on Saturday, April 1st. Brad said we have eight to nine sites to choose from. Brad will move the table to the edge of the parking lot and steer people to the fire house lot. Matthew Toronto is doing pickup of trash for free. People are signing up rapidly. Student participation might be lower because this event falls close to Spring break. He got the gloves already. Al said he has some more if needed that are PCS gloves. (He'll look for the gloves with the red rims). Small sizes always run out. There will be a 2nd Project Clean Stream in the upper Magothy near Lake Waterford. Brad has been urged to ask CCC to join the Magothy River Association (MRA). Membership is \$25 per year.
- iv. Weed Warriors will start on Wednesday, April 5th.
- v. The kickoff of Weed Warriors will be Friday, April 21st at the Little Magothy Beach. Bill will bring pizza, Jeanne K will bring cookies, and we'll furnish water. It will be a good opportunity to show people around. Since Earth Day is the next day, Stacey said we could maybe do those Earth Day crafts like we did at the Strawberry Festival, such as gluing decorations onto precut Earth circles. Stacey will give the paper to Jeanne K, who volunteered to help with precutting the circles. Another activity idea is a scavenger hunt bingo card, staying on the path to check off things.
- vi. The Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) asked for CCC's help with selecting possible properties to Class 15's project. Jeff Popp picked the property of Emily Lynch. They will be there Saturday, April 15th for assessment and education, followed by Saturday 22nd for putting the plants in the ground. Jeff Popp will have a WSA's own residential site assessment of her yard and the plan for work. Stacey will talk about Weed Warriors. We can get the Watershed Stewards to help with weeding at Little Magothy Beach.
- vii. Spring planting at Little Magothy Beach: Delivery will be on Friday, April 28th. Part of the order is coming from Babikow, and North Creek will UPS the plants to Stacey's address that week. On Saturday, April 29th, we will plant 48 goldenrod gallons, 60 phlox quarts, 48 iris cristata, 60 lady ferns, and 60 juncus (most of which for the Serene Ravine). Stacey wants to plant along that hill. From North Creek, we'll get 6 flats of Amphibola and 6 flats of Virginia Bluebells plugs. Stacey set up a Sign-Up Genius for 9am-noon and 1-3pm. The afternoon shift will be at the Serene Ravine if Little Magothy Beach planting is completed in the morning shift.

- f. We discussed sponsorship levels. Stacey added a free tree to each level. We discussed years of sponsorship and garden advisory time for each level. Cathy suggested the links would open a separate tab, not away from the website. The motion to accept on a trial basis the levels as written

passed. Al suggested possibly having someone underwrite a project or tell us how they would like to be a sponsor.

- g. Corporate Sponsors based on what they do for us now: Graul's and Where Pigs Fly: \$250 Coneflower. A Realtor, Richard's, Bella's, & Broadneck Grill: \$1000 Goldenrod. Ace Hardware & Matthew Hauling: \$500 Aster. Stacey asked us to think about other ideas of local businesses to approach. Phil mentioned other tree companies such as Genesis. We want a thing we can hand to someone with our information. Al suggested a flyer and cover letter explaining where on the website sponsors would be recognized, and that someone should design a certificate. Jeanne K suggested that be in the Caper. That would be an ad and we aren't paying for ads; however, Stacey can thank a sponsor of the month in her articles.

5. New Business:

- a. We agreed on flyers for Big Trees and Garden Advisory, and that business cards would also be good to have, especially for Stacey, who is always out representing CCC. Phil will investigate business cards. If the cards are generic, any of us could use them.
- b. Stephanie Cornett is working at Stem Night at Cape St Claire Elementary school next Tuesday, March 28th, from 5-6:30pm. Stacey agreed to attend, and Brad volunteered to help her. They will bring the WSA runoff display.
- c. The Maryland Native Plants Program bill passed in both the House and Senate. They are going to pair with University of Maryland Extension to do a better job of promoting native plants. It will have a list of Maryland Native Plants website, and they would have a list of invasive plants. CCC's website could include a link to that website.
- d. Strawberry Festival: Larry said the Girl Scout Troop will be doing an oyster trivia wheel, oyster corn hole, and other oyster-themed activities. Stacey asked Mary Lamb that CCC's table be located next to Girl Scout table.

Adjourned 9:13pm.