

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 6/19/2023

In attendance: Al Todd, Bill Rappoport, Brad Knopf, Christie Fowler, Jeanne Klinger, Karen Minor, Larry Jennings, Phil Ourisson & guest Jennifer Conner (liaison to CSCIA Board)

Call to order: 7:03pm.

1. The May CCC meeting minutes were approved pending review and amended with corrections.
2. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Account balances:
 - i. General Fund: \$13,585 in after the business card payment and stickers for the cars and contingent on the \$2,000 grant from Western Md and the \$250 left over from spraying. Phil hasn't received the bill yet from the last Serene Ravine spray yet. \$13,585 is available now, plus whatever collected during Strawberry Festival and Weed Warriors tour.
 - ii. Grants balance: \$1,604.
 - b. Website: Stacey put in a request to Bill Szczytko to add a page for corporate sponsors. He hasn't been able to do that yet. Phil updated Stacey's blog on Al's Trees. The Trees page is still a little messy. These improvements are dependent on Bill's availability to spend time on them. We still also need to get together with him on reorganizing the website.
3. Brad attended the CSCIA Board of Governors meeting. It was brief due to partially being held in closed session. His summary:
 - a. The Strawberry Festival had a great turnout.
 - b. The beach attendants have started for the year and have done a great job so far.
 - c. The setback variance requested by a homeowner on River Bay Rd was deemed to be a low impact.
 - d. The Garden Club will take their usual two-month summer hiatus.
 - e. The Goshen Farm concert series has begun. Their charity wine tasting will be there this year.
 - f. Beau is in favor of the large-scale oyster restoration project. Beau said he and the Board of Governors would discuss giving a donation like CCC's \$1000 and subsequent donations as well.
 - g. We have new Oyster growing volunteers from the slip holders.
4. Committee reports:
 - a. Weed Warriors: New volunteers are showing up to help every time. In all, there has been good attendance.
 - b. Big Trees: Al and Robert have been measuring trees. They made up the map for the Big Tree driving tour of 22 trees of largest of species and a new table of big trees on the website. Al and Robert tried to expand the diversity of the trees. They have about 35 trees measured. People keep sending emails to Al reporting that they have measured their tree and calculated the point according to his directions. The Capar hasn't come out with that article yet. Stacey said she posted on Facebook. Al took a selection of the biggest trees for the tour. It will go into the July/August Capar edition so people can drive around. Brad said it's a nice reference. If we can pull it off, Marita has an idea to go with a Google Map platform to crowdsource the data so that people can add their information to it. Brad said he does those pretty frequently you sometimes lose the street names. Brad suggested you can drop pins. Al and Robert would measure the trees. In response to Jeanne M's concern that people would mess up the map, Brad said we would need a gate keeper for it. People are really excited about the trees. Al printed out a mock business card. People are really excited to talk about their trees, and they learn a lot about CCC during their conversations. Al said if

we had a tri-fold brochure about CCC in general of our "greatest hits", he could hand that out too or leave it behind. For the next Caper, Robert will write the article to explain where to get trees and tree planting for the September issue.

- c. Stacey has a proposal for WSA Tree Troopers to get 20-35 trees between the Serene Ravine and Little Magothy Beach. Larry asked to see if the Chesapeake Bay Foundation has more volume to get us good prices. Stacey said WSA is a little cheaper. Al said Unity Gardens is focusing the Fall grants on trees and shrubs and you can get up to \$3K. Al emailed Stacey about that. CCC is eligible again to get a grant since we haven't gotten one for over a year. We can think about a grant for the purchase of trees rather than buy them ourselves.
- d. Garden Advisory: Larry said he's working on one big project. He's drawing the layout for it. The plan calls for about \$1.5-2K worth of our plants for the 45 x 40 ft area. The site was nothing but wiregrass. He sprayed it in the Fall, and it worked. The homeowner covered the planting site with cardboard, leaves, and wood chips from Richard's Tree Care.
- e. Grants committee: No updates.

5. Old Business:

- a. Weed Warriors will be a Little Magothy Beach on Wednesday, June 21st to continue chasing English Ivy and Bittersweet. Brad will not be able to be there. The June 28th weeding session is cancelled.
- b. Corporate Sponsors: The evolution of the graphic from Marita is in a good place by now. Stacey will start working on letters with the charts for possible sponsors. People have expressed interest. We should all make suggestions on whom to solicit that may want to be supportive. Bill S is working on the Corporate Sponsors website page.
- c. Allison ordered the new CCC business cards.
- d. The Strawberry Festival was successful. Over twenty people provided their names and email addresses on the sign-up sheet, and we received \$43 in donations.

6. New Business:

- a. The Habitat Hero tour was a success. We received \$75 in donations. We had a very interested crowd. We all enjoyed Larry's yard, the delicious lunch he provided, and the beautiful view. Larry said a WSA lady was so excited about this tour. Larry gave her our Garden Advisory card.
- b. The CCC board approved a \$1000 donation for the oyster restoration fund. Phil sent a check. It hasn't yet been cashed. Brad said the shipment won't happen until next year. It is a dedicated fund for a big delivery, and DNR will do the planting. The spat would come from Horn Point. A full boat is 30 million oysters. We are getting 12 million oyster spat from DNR in the next few weeks, as mitigation for the Ever Forward cargo ship running aground. Brad has high hopes that we can raise enough money to fund half a boat of oysters this year. Brad distributed flyers to every waterfront house in Cape St Claire along River Bay Rd. (There are 100 homes.)
- c. Hydrangea order: Delivery to Alison's house will be tomorrow. She will drop them off to Larry's house later this week.
- d. The Native Plant Sale partners are confirmed. It's a bigger list than usual, including Chris Pax, Nancy Lawson, and Alison Milligan.
- e. Volunteers are needed to plant shoreline grasses on Saturday, June 24th at the Main Beach and Lake Claire beach from 9am to noon. Spartina grasses were left over from the restoration project and will be used to prevent erosion and create habitat in the river. Stacey did a Signup Genius to get volunteers. Jennifer Conner of the BOG will be there.
- f. CCC's speaker event featuring Alison Milligan will be on Thursday Sept 7th. Doors 6:30, speaking starts at 7pm. Brad will do a flyer.

- g. The next CCC meeting has been moved one week ahead to July 24th at Clubhouse.
- h. Brad mentioned 2 upcoming events:
 - i. Chris Hopkinson and Bryan Gomes will be at the MRA meeting this Wednesday, June 21 at 7pm at the Grachur Club, built on a hill overlooking the Magothy River. Chris is the founder of Bay Paddle, originally spanning the entire Chesapeake Bay. Bryan Gomes, a youth environmental educator, formerly of ORP, has paddled extensively with Chris. This meeting will be a unique opportunity to talk to these guys and see this place. It's in Pasadena off Lake Shore Rd.
 - ii. The Bay Paddle, a fundraiser benefitting Oyster Recovery Partnership, Chesapeake Conservancy and Waterkeepers Chesapeake will be Saturday, July 22nd and Sunday, July 23rd. The route for this kayak and standup paddleboard race will be a bit easier this year. There is a raffle to support this effort as well: a handmade kayak by Chesapeake Light Craft that was built by local MGO oyster grower Charles Dankmeyer.
- i. Brad had a question about the tree fund for cutting down bad trees being used up for the year. He wondered if there have been discussions about the fund being used to eliminate invasives as well. Brad said there's a 20 x 20 spot of Japanese Knotweed next to the water of the headwaters of the Little Magothy by the ballpark as you approach the pumping station. Christie said the county sprayed it in her community just this past week. Christie reported it to 311, and it was gone the next week. Jennifer said it's depleted for the fiscal year, as July is the end, but a new one begins. Richard's is the preferred provider. Brad said at Little Magothy Beach, there's a massive white oak that died and is dangling right over the blue picnic tables and it's a hazard. It has infected its little brother which is now starting to die. Brad will send an email to Frank about the knotweed on Little Magothy View and the white oak, as they are on Cape property. There is an extensive infestation of ailanthus, j. honeysuckle and euonymus on Magothy Park Lane. This is county property (ballpark) and they will be notified. Christie said the county has been very responsive when they have complained. Al suggested reporting it on 311.

Adjourned 7:52pm.