

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 5/22/2023

In attendance: Al Todd, Alison Sayres, Bill Rappoport, Brad Knopf, Christie Fowler, Jeanne Klinger, Karen Minor, Larry Jennings, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger, Tonya Powell, & guests Bill Szczytko, Cathy Gazzo, and Jennifer Conner (liaison to CSCIA Board)

Call to order: 7:05pm.

1. The April CCC meeting minutes were approved.
2. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Account balances: Phil sent out an email with details on the accounts. General Fund \$18,310; Grants \$1,169. We have about \$13,965 available to us.
 - b. Website: Phil has been succeeding in updating the website.
3. Stacey attended the new Board of Governor's (BOG) meeting last month. Her summary:
 - a. The Cox room is the new reception area room. Filing will now be done in the old office.
 - b. They have been hiring beach attendants. They still have a few more interviews to do. The attendants started last weekend.
 - c. Since Mary has been having issues with late submissions for the Caper, she might change the deadlines to earlier each month. Stacey submitted Al's article for the June Caper. The months of July and August are combined into a double issue. Stacey will again use that issue of the Caper to talk about plants that will be offered at the Native Plant Sale. Stacey asked Al for some more content.
 - d. The Cape Cleanup is Friday July 14th and Saturday, July 15th.
 - e. A study is underway for a skate park off Bay Head Rd.
 - f. A new law took effect that requires communities to have a reserve study done by October. The purpose of the law is to ensure that communities have enough money in their reserves to replace any and all structures. Jennifer Conner said that new mortgages depend on the compliance of having the study done, and that it's to the advantage of the HOA to do it correctly. Cathy G looked into this subject with lenders and said lenders don't care about the reserves of the HOA. Jennifer said she's not sure about how insurance plays into it. The cost of a study ranges from \$6,000 to \$18,000.
 - g. A resident requested a cross walk at Woodland Circle.
4. Committee reports:
 - a. Website: We have been concerned that if Bill Szczytko disappears, no one would be able to help us move forward with the website. The hosting platform is WordPress, which is not being updated anymore. WordPress is great and free, but it can be complicated, and it definitely has a learning curve. Bill said that many people know how to use WordPress and it's standardized. CSCIA is our website's host. Other platforms are not free. If you move the site to another platform, you'll have to climb a new learning curve and start from scratch. We agreed to remain in WordPress and revamp our website as needed. Phil said the Trees page is still jumbled up. We need to make the website more logical on its approach. Al added that most of the content on the website is driven by blogs but not themes. Bill said that it's been built upon levels. Bill said he picked a theme for the CCC website that he's had success with, and then he did a full redo on the theme a while back. He added that he's willing to keep maintaining it with us and he's fine with helping with whatever we need, such as reorganizing the website. Al will give suggestions to Bill. We should all go through the

website and look at Al's comments. Phil said he's happy to continue with his role in updating as needed. Bill also mentioned that the more content is added to a website, the more traffic that is generated due to people doing searches.

- b. Weed Warriors are picking up new volunteers. Some volunteers are Jennifer, Vera, Grace, a 7th grader, and Marsha Dudley. A good group has been volunteering every week. Weeding has mostly been taking place at the Little Magothy Beach, since they sprayed at the Serene Ravine. The Spring planting happened at Little Magothy Beach. Jeanne K and Larry planted some and the rest will be done on Wednesday. Stacey gave Katherine Virginia Bluebells and River Birch to plant in the Serene Ravine. Stacey said that this week, they will meet at 4:30 and that Sawzalls will be needed to remove the remaining Burning Bush. Stacey will bring Crossbow herbicide to paint on the stumps.
- c. Big Trees committee: Al reported that he and Robert will go out on Saturday to visit and measure seven trees. He added that people love being contacted because they are proud of their trees. Al and Robert have had some really nice conversations with various residents about their trees. Al is still working on making up a CCC flyer. Stacey said we can start putting the WSA door hangers on doors of properties with English Ivy. Al said they have identified some interesting trees, such as the big persimmon on Main Beach. Al asked if it would be acceptable to publish a list of addresses so that people can drive by. Stacey said it would be okay if we get permission from each resident first. Brad suggested a map and Larry agreed that a map would be great to have. Al has a list of 15 people total. Cathy and Jeannie K said they can do some door knocking to get permission from each resident.
- d. Garden Advisory committee: Larry reported that he got a lot of prospects on Saturday.
- e. Grants committee: Waiting to hear back about approval in August or September.

5. Old Business:

- a. Stacey said that Alison Milligan is putting in a shrub order.
- b. Phil talked about business cards. He asked his sailing school what company they are using. They said it was VistaPrint, which is both inexpensive and user-friendly. Our new CCC business cards should have our logo, the web addresses for Big Trees and Garden Advisory, Stacey's name, and Larry's name. Alison said 100 cards costs \$18 on VistaPrint. As Treasurer, Phil approved the expenditure to order business cards. Cathy suggested not getting glossy cards so we can write our names on them. Alison volunteered to design the card.
- c. Stacey submitted the final Chesapeake Bay Trust report.
- d. Al said the sprayers under-performed on the job and communication. They sprayed 10 days ago, and the effects are hardly visible yet.
- e. Weed Warriors kickoff & Earth Day went well. We got a good crowd. Olivia West helped with the craft project. Al said the neighborhood is really excited about it. The number of birds seen from the new benches is amazing.
- f. Brad showed the Watershed Steward class what to do and the event went well. Most of the Spring planting is complete. Some last-minute shrubs were added. All of the wineberry is cleared from the hill and has been replaced by Carex Amphibola. By next year, it will fill in. The Spicebushes need water. Jeanne K has been watering plants that haven't put in yet. She volunteered to water the Spicebush.
- g. Corporate Sponsors: No updates. Christy gave the information to Lonnie. He gave it to First National Bank. We are interested to know what information and materials other groups when they seek corporate sponsorship.

6. New Business:

- a. Habitat Heroes: We are going to scale back and only do three this year. Stacey asked for suggestions. Stacey described 3 prospective Habitat Heroes. We agreed to one of them. Stacey will let her know.
- b. The Strawberry Festival will be in two weeks. We will not be doing the parade this year, but we need to have a table, manned by at least two of us for each shift. Stacey will set up a SignUpGenius

for it. Karen will bring two tables and 3 chairs and Bill will bring his canopy. Set up will be around 8:00 am or earlier. Stacey will make sure someone gets the basket of materials and the clip board. Larry said the Girl Scouts prepared a very impressive “knock your socks off” 20-page guide on Oysters. They will have an Oyster corn hole and a crossword puzzle at their table.

- c. The Habitat Hero Tour will be on Saturday, June 17th at 10:00am. Brad will create the flyer. Everyone can park by the Serene Ravine and the group will walk the path up to Rob Wood’s house. Then we’ll all carpool to Larry’s house. Larry will serve lunch from 11:00 to noon.
- d. The next CCC meeting will be on June 19th. Brad will lead it. Stacey will be out of town so she will attend by phone.
- e. Stacey sent an email about the hydrangea. She needs to know if there’s any interest. She’ll have six quarts of Green and Gold. Let her know if you want any.
- f. Native Plant Sale: Stacey has made no changes to the list of plants. She will work with Alison Milligan on the other shrubs. Stacey ordered some perennials from Edward. She will reach out to past partners we’ve had.
- g. Planting of grasses at Little Magothy Beach and Main Beach will happen on September 23rd as part of the restoration project. Cape has been offered the plants, among which are two varieties of Spartina. Stacey will coordinate on getting volunteers to plant them.
- h. Brad reported that Olivia West has had two successful projects. She thanked CCC for our support of the People’s Garden at Broadneck High School. She asked about locations for planting submerged aquatic vegetation (SAVs). Brad noted that the 2 chosen sites are the Cattail Creek restoration site and another along the Upper Magothy perch spawning area.
- i. The meeting with Representative John Sarbanes about potentially making Whitehall Manor part of the National Parks system was intense.
- j. Al asked about the list of trees at Serene Ravine. We can apply to add trees back in that were lost from spraying. Stacey said she will coordinate with WSA to buy trees from the Tree Trooper Program at \$20 each. We plan on purchasing at least 20 trees for \$400 from the Western Maryland grant. Al asked what should be done with the dead trees. Stacey said the smaller stuff could act as habitat.

7. Adjourned 8:45pm.