

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 7/17/2023

In attendance: Al Todd, Alison Sayres, Bill Rappoport, Brad Knopf, Christie Fowler, Jeanne Klinger, Karen Minor, Larry Jennings, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger, and Guests: Cathy Gazzo, Jessie Corlis, Charlie Schoul.

Call to order: 7:04pm.

1. The June CCC meeting minutes were approved.
2. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
 - i. The General Fund is \$13,938, which includes the latest debits, including payment of \$350 for the Caper, and \$821.86 in pending debits.
 - ii. The Grants balance is \$984. \$1,600 is still available from the original \$2,000 grant from the Western MD RC&D Council. We have started to use that for spraying the Serene Ravine.
 - b. Website: No updates.
3. Stacey attended the CSCIA Board of Governors meeting. Her summary:
 - a. They talked about ramp closures on Route 50.
 - b. The 4th of July parade was a success and had a lot of entries and amazing games. Jessie and her band played some music.
 - c. They praised the beach attendants (a great crew).
 - d. The Chesapeake National Recreation Area has not yet been introduced as a bill.
 - e. They want to do a movie night down at the Main Beach.
 - f. The next phase of the bike trail will be from the BGE substation all the way to Ritchie Hwy, eventually connecting to Sandy Point as well.
 - g. Plans are underway to replace the existing firehouse with a newly constructed, pull-through firehouse, which will be built next to the existing firehouse. The step pools will go away. Some type of land swap that involves the County and Department of Natural Resources will occur. Beau attended one of several meetings planned about it.
4. Fundraising: Stacey threw out some fundraising ideas, such as a plein air event, or perhaps auctioning off donated artwork or photography at our speaker events. Our guest, Jessie Corlis, is a founding member of Broadneck Bluegrass that often performs at the Main Beach and Lake Claire. Jessie also has background experience with fundraising. Jessie said the thirty to forty local musicians who perform are volunteer. At their music events, Jessie is often asked if they accept donations or tips, so there's an opportunity to have musicians indirectly support CCC if we had a table at those events to accept donations. Her group could plug a specific project that CCC is doing. Jessie has the CCC donation page scan code and she has often shared it. Broadneck Bluegrass has three Sunday evening music events this summer: August 13th, September 10th, & October 8th, from 4-8pm. Jessie asked Stacey for some verbiage that would be helpful to publicize, and she said we are welcome to bring a table to their events. The association has been gracious to give us permission to do this. Al talked about the October 8th event for having a table set up to promote CCC, and he suggested coordinating with artists, and perhaps having an art exhibit at one of those events. Stacey said we will target October 8th and if someone wants to volunteer for a different date, they are welcome. Stacey said some people will donate some art/photography. We can do a silent auction the night of our speaker event. Jessie suggested doing raffle tickets for winning artwork. Jeanne K contacted Alison Harbaugh in the Cape and she has contacts of people who might be willing to come and paint. Jessie mentioned that, at the Annapolis Baygrass Music Festival on Sept 30th at Sandy Point, they raise money for

mental health. Al said the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is involved with that. Stacey promised to post a link to that.

5. Committee reports:

- a. Weed Warriors: Stacey reported that weeding is still going on every Wednesday. Some people like the morning hours better. Jeanne went down in the morning this past Wednesday, and then in evening, Brad, Katherine, Jeanne, and Bill worked. Stacey set up an 8:30am session for next Wednesday, and she'll have a 5:30 session that day too. The Bush Killer is out of control in the Serene Ravine. She advised to pull it down if it's climbing up any trees.
- b. Big Trees:
 - i. Al noted that we talked about having a one-page PDF map and the table link on the website that people can download. Al will send it to Phil again to post on the website. (It's on the site but no way to download it.) Phil will look into it. Rob and Al have a list of trees to measure. Over time, they will be adding to the table of trees.
 - ii. The bike trail: As a concerned citizen, Al complained to Amanda Fiedler about the lack of vegetation along the bike trail. She said she will follow up on this. The County is not following its own guidelines of mitigating their own development. With Phase 3 underway, Al is starting his campaign again to try to pressure the County for additional tree planting to improve the trail which is highly exposed. Amanda had promised to share the County's mitigation plans. Al will report back after reaching out again to Amanda to inquire with the County and will advise CCC members is they should contact. Brad commented that overall, Amanda tries to be responsive. Al agreed.
 - iii. Robert will write the article for the September Caper.
- c. Garden Advisory: Larry is working on a big project and drawing his plans for it. He met with two people that will be making purchases at the Plant Sale.
- d. Grants committee: It won't be until September to get a grant.

6. Old Business:

- a. We got our business cards. Thanks to Ali for her efforts. Stacey brought the box to the meeting.
- b. Corporate Sponsors: Cathy Gazzo is our first sponsor. She's been gracious to be our guinea pig. We applauded to thank her. The Corporate Sponsors page is under "Who we are" on the CCC website. We have two sponsors: Mathews Hauling and Cathy Gazzo. Stacey dropped off CCC sponsorship materials to a couple other local businesses, namely, Bella's, Graul's, and Houck's Menswear. Stacey will follow up this week. We will grandfather the Broadneck Grill in as a sponsor. Phil has been in correspondence with Donna. She knows who Phil is so Phil said he can be the contact person with her. Stacey also dropped off to Melissa at Ace and TNT Hair Salon. Phil has some people in mind to approach. Christie had a suggestion of whom to approach too. Stacey displayed the folders, letter, a business card, etc. to us. Stacey asked if any of us want any, she can give us the materials. Jeanne suggested Anglers as a possible prospect. Jessie said she'll inquire about a contact, as she has a friend her works there. Brad suggested Donnelly's. Jessie said she can give a folder to Della Notte restaurant. Stacey asked we shoot her an email if we think of any other prospective sponsors. She's happy to approach them.

7. New Business:

- a. Today, Brad and Stacey spoke for a podcast. They were interviewed by two people from Salisbury, on the No, I Know podcast on Delmarva Public Media. They do environmental and non-profit podcasts. They met at the Little Magothy and talked about CCC's projects. The recording was less than 10 minutes. Brad said it was fun and they were thrilled. He let Frank and Beau know that he and Stacey had done it. It all worked out well. The podcast will be posted on Spotify and iHeart radio, and they will notify us when it will be available.
- b. Jeff Popp, director of Restoration of the Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA), reached out to Stacey that he had several extra flats of Spartina. He dropped off eight flats to our friend Jennifer. Last weekend, Stacey, Bill, and other volunteers (ten in all) came out and got them planted in an hour at Main Beach. Stacey noted how nice it was of WSA to give us the plants.
- c. Stacey is trying to get the Unity Gardens 2023 Grant application done this week. Marita is helping with the plan. Unity Gardens is offering up to \$3,000 super grant this fall for native tree and shrub installations. Stacey wrote out a whole list of trees. She can always change some later if needed. Stacey has until next Tuesday to complete the application.
- d. Oyster cages: Brad reported two dozen volunteers have signed up so far for the oyster cage building workshop. The CCC board has Sign Up Genius for it. The Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) will provide the materials, such as precut mesh, for constructing the cages. Brad had ordered over 140 cages for the year, so this will help fulfill such a large request. It will be fun. He added that well over 120 waterfront property owners will be growing the young oysters in cages on their piers. Growers plant their oysters the following Spring on Reef Ball installations we have created. The cage building event is this Saturday at Main Beach from 9-11am. Mary will loan us the tables, and the cage building will be set up as an assembly line. Brad stressed to bring gloves if you participate.
- e. The Native Plant Sale will be on Saturday, September 23rd.
 - i. Stacey is finalizing the orders. She has a good list. She will take preorders for the Board and super helpers.
 - ii. Phil has a table for his cash area. Karen will lend her five tables, and Phil will ask Mary to borrow their twenty-one tables.
 - iii. Stacey was contacted by Rachel Carey from the Providence Center off Shore Acres Rd. They are trying to expand their native plant selections. She wanted to know if we could order some from her. Stacey said it would be great to support them. She placed a small order small order for some plants we haven't been able to get. Stacey is thinking they might want a table at the Plant Sale. They are trying to get their name out there, and Stacey is trying to help them out. Their pots are 6 inches (not quart or gallon). They will be about \$4 apiece. We are all in favor of supporting them.
 - iv. One of our problems every year: Plants signs falling off. Stacy ordered on Amazon some products with clips on both ends to affix the signs to our table. We can try them out. We discussed various ways of clipping our plant signs. Stacey asked us to brainstorm.
 - v. Stacey has sent out the Sign-Up Genius for sign up for the Plant Sale. Please sign up.
 - vi. Laura Shrank will research the new plants descriptions. Stacey will send the text to Jennifer. Crystal will do the codes. Jeanne K will write the little tags. Brad will do the flyers.
 - vii. The usual people will have a table: Alison Milligan, Bay wise, Atkins Arboretum, Pollinator Pathways, Chris Pax, etc.
 - viii. We can talk logistics next month.
 - ix. Stacey noted that in past years at the sale before we opened, people were lined up with nothing to do. We should figure out how to have the partners next to the line to talk to them while they are in line before the sale opens. Brad suggested an internal aisle of tables adjacent to the line, so people can talk to them, and then relocate the tables after the sale starts.

- x. Another critique we had last year: Have better signage where parking will be and that the sale will be that day. These signs will be especially helpful to people who don't know the Cape.
- xi. Other suggestions:
 - Scouts as volunteers to help people transport the plants to their cars.
 - Flags or markers that show that plants have been paid for.
 - A Hold Area for purchases in progress.
 - Christine suggested selling a \$2 reusable bag.
- f. Alison Milligan will speak at the Clubhouse on the evening of Thursday, September 7th. She will highlight some of the plants we will have at the Sale. (Doors 6:30, speaking starts at 7pm.)
- g. Corporate Sponsors: A lady reached out with a critique and suggestions about our Corporate Sponsors letter. Brad is working on the Certificate & plaque. He added that there is a wide range of costs. He has a sample coming that he can show us. We talked about signage acknowledging a business of a very large sponsor. Brad also suggested having a sponsor of the Plant Sale with a reusable bag with our logo on it and a big sign out front with their logo on it. He explained that we could parlay the popularity of our event since it's getting a good following and getting famous. Jeanne suggested having a white board with the list of our sponsors at the Sale.
- h. Bill said the Quarterly meeting will be at 7:30pm. Wear your CCC shirt if you attend.

Adjourned 8:34pm.