

Cape Conservation Corps Board Meeting Minutes November 20, 2023

In attendance:

Board members: Al Todd, Bill Rappoport, Brad Knopf, Jeanne Klinger, Karen Minor, Larry Jennings, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger

Guests: Cathy Sawyer, her daughter Rebecca, and Rebecca's friend, Madison.

Call to order: 7:03pm.

1. The October CCC meeting minutes were approved as amended.
2. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
 - i. General Fund \$21,985, of which he owes \$1,818 on MD sales tax.
 - ii. Grants Fund: \$1,162.
 - b. Phil mentioned that, due to exceeding our credit card limit, we were charged a fee of \$39. On the other hand, we received a bonus of \$425 from the credit card for the year. Phil immediately requested and was approved for a \$25K limit increase.
 - c. Website: Phil posted Stacy's blog and has posted the September minutes.
3. Stacey introduced Rebecca Sawyer, who is a 9th grader at Broadneck High School. Rebecca loves doing projects in and for the community and she loves nature. She is a Girl Scout and is working on her Gold Award. Rebecca talked a little about herself and described what she has in mind for her project to build and stock Little Libraries, to be installed at Little Magothy Beach and at the Serene Ravine. Each will hold nature-related books, journals, and art supplies for sketching. She must finish some steps, draw up a design, turn in a proposal to her council, get approval by CCC, and then she'll present her proposal to Cape Association. In January, she will attend an informational event to document everything she needs to start the Gold Award project. After approval, she hopes the project will culminate in having the libraries installed in late Spring. She will pursue donations from local businesses, such as Ace Hardware for material such as wood to build the library. She will come back to CCC for additional help for whatever she still needs. Stacey agreed that we have funds to help with Rebecca's fundraising. Gold Award projects must have both sustainability and educational aspects to them. Each library will display a QR code that people can scan for more information. The code will link directly to a CCC website page. Rebecca will tell us that she wants on the page and CCC will approve and finalize the wording. Each library wouldn't be so much as a lending library but instead hold guidebooks and identification books that would stay there. We talked about having a bird log of birds spotted, and having stickers to take home, and a section for people to leave things as well. Rebecca is looking for donations of journals, guidebooks, and art supplies such as colored pencils, sketchpads, etc. for sketching birds, for example. Brad mentioned that he has an old friend, Zora Latham, who is experienced in rain scaping. She wants to bequeath an immense collection of nice environmental books, including books on birds, animals, and weather. This collection would be good for Rebecca to choose from. Brad said that a plaque recognizing Zora would be nice to keep in mind as Rebecca is designing the library cabinets. From a sustainability standpoint, it's foreseeable that people would take books from time to time, but hopefully the libraries would be replenished with donated books. Stacey showed her laminated fold out guidebooks. Stacey welcomed Rebecca to return to a later CCC meeting to give us an update on her project.

4. Stacey attended the most recent CSCIA BOG meeting. Her summary:
 - a. A family who lost their son, Tripper Logan, approached the community about a memorial bench. The yellow bench off the path at Main beach will be replaced with a purple bench with a plaque for him. The Garden Club asked for two benches as well, to be installed at Deep Creek and Little Magothy beach, in memory of one of the original founders of the Garden Club named Kitty Donovan who lived near Deep Creek, and Linda Droneburg, who was very active in the Garden Club.
 - b. The Christmas Tree Lighting is this Sunday at the Guard House.
 - c. Breakfast with Santa is on Saturday, December 9th.
 - d. They are trying to do another movie night this Christmas season. (The first one was a big hit.)
 - e. Work continues to obtain permits to use the sand from the Little Magothy dredge.
 - f. Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation passed, and some changes to the Bylaws will be voted on in the next membership meeting regarding a proposed increase in charges to community residents. This proposal stems from the additional funds needed as determined by the reserve study. The proposed charge is more than what is currently allowed in the Bylaws.

5. Committee reports:
 - a. Weed Warriors: Weeding for the season is wrapped up unless some nice days come along. English Ivy is always a challenge to keep in check. By next month, Stacey will try to have some statistics tabulated on totals of bags, people, and work hours this year.
 - b. Big trees: Al is still trying to get the last to measurements of big trees and he will do one more push to get people to respond with nominations for champion trees. They sprayed Bushkiller on the lower end of the ravine and fringes.
 - c. Garden Advisory: Larry said all is wrapped for the year. Lauren Decker is happy with everything. The last task Larry had was for a lady who got 5 shrubs. Larry put them in the ground. She was happy and paid \$50.
 - d. Grants committee: Nothing yet. The Alliance is pursuing the other opportunity. We are in waiting mode.
 - e. Corporate sponsors: Jeanne took the CCC sponsorship certificate to Cape Hair Scene, and the owner was thrilled to get it. Phil submitted a sponsorship proposal packet to two local companies. No response from them yet. After the holidays, we can think of other businesses to approach, such as Green Valley Market, Anglers, and Donnelly's. Phil also suggested that we approach tradesmen in the Cape, such as electricians.
 - f. Habitat Heroes: No updates.

6. Old Business:
 - a. Re-planting days at Little Magothy Beach and the Serene Ravine resulted in getting a lot planted by many volunteers. Marcia, Jeanne, & Bill have been great at keeping the new plantings watered. The Habitat for Humanity event had two adults and three kids at each site. They worked hard planting trees. They wrote us a thank you note with the signatures from the people that were at both events. CCC gave Habitat for Humanity a donation of \$200 for planting and \$150 for mulching.
 - b. Stacey submitted the Unity Gardens Grant final report.
 - c. Alison will work on designing a tri-fold brochure about CCC.

- d. Bee Lab: Thanks to Bill and Jeanne for picking up 275 plants using Phil's trailer from the Bee Lab in Bowie as part of their "Re-pollinate Anne Arundel" program. The plants that are still unplanted at the Serene Ravine will overwinter in place. Jeanne will cover them with leaves. Planting will occur some time in the Spring.
- e. Last week, a tremendous amount of people came out to mulch the paths at Little Magothy Beach and the Serene Ravine.
- f. The November 3rd speaker event went well. The speaker was great, and we were able to donate \$700 from funds collected that night from the artwork and two outside donations totaling \$200. The en plein air items went well. Jeanne said there's a plein air painting class at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC), and that maybe she can get them to come to future CCC plein air events, since our first event was so successful. Larry knows of someone from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation that does plein air events too. Stacey said it would be nice to have an event at the Serene Ravine perhaps in the Spring on two different days. She liked having the music during our event. Again, we will collect the works and do the auction at a future event. With the raffle from the art (about \$1000) and the guitar (a generous gift from Rob Hamilton), this event raised close to \$1.5K.

7. New Business:

- a. Scholarships: Phil was at a South County association concert. He sent an email to South County asking how they administer scholarships. Their response was very comprehensive. Part of CCC's mission is to get the next generation interested in the environment. How better to do it than do a scholarship. (Brad pointed out that the Magothy River Association gives scholarships for AACC and in response, they get a lot of play for it. We have interplay with the faculty for many occasions.) A good candidate to receive CCC Scholarship is a Broadneck High School senior that is exceptional and whose career choice or choice of study will be in environmental science. In general, our CCC budget increases about a few thousand each year. Stacey suggested that our corporate sponsors could share in the sponsorship for a scholarship. Al cautioned that it could be problematic if sponsors would want their sponsorship money to go to a specific thing. He suggested that instead, sponsor money should go to CCC and all our activities, and CCC can advertise that every year, we give \$1K towards a budding HS student's college education. Phil thinks \$1K would be a good start. He likes certain aspects South County's process, such as requiring at least a 2.50 GPA, to assure that the money will apply to what we are supporting. Stacey proposed a new CCC Scholarship committee. Al said the scholarship committee can include the Environmental teacher of the HS. Phil emphasized that those teachers are more appropriate than counselors. Jeanne volunteered to be on this committee. She'll contact some of the Anne Arundel County public school teachers of environmental science and set up a meeting with them to talk to her and Stacey for ideas. A lot of kids piece together scholarships like this to get through school so \$1K is good. Stacey, Alison, Jeannie, Marcia, and Phil volunteered to be on this committee. Al asked if the scholarship recipient should be a Cape St Claire resident or a Broadneck HS student. We agreed Broadneck HS would be fairer.
- b. The Save Our Trees event, CCC's last event of the year, will be on Saturday, December 9th from 9:45 to noon at Deep Creek marina to pull English ivy. Habitat Hero winners Matt and Lenore Puglisi, who live on Gateway Drive, gave us permission go through their yard to access the trees. We will advertise this as a learning event on how to remove ivy from their own yards. Phil posted this event on the CCC website.

- c. There are other community areas where CCC can help coordinate to remove invasive plants and shrubs. Beau asked CCC about possibly helping in the future to clear out invasives around the upper parking lot at Deep Creek marina.
- d. For the 2024 calendar of events, we should start thinking of specific dates. Beau said through next August, the Clubhouse is booked every weekend. Since the Clubhouse books up very fast, Phil has reserved the Clubhouse for Mondays and the November speaker event. Next year's Native Plant Sale will be on Saturday, September 21st. Stacey said that if anyone thinks of another event to try, we can discuss that.
- e. Larry will bring eggnog for our Xmas CCC meeting on December 18th, and Karen will bring something too.
- f. Brad said that on Saturday, December 16th, Mike Maguire as Santa will arrive by tugboat at The Point restaurant at noon and then Deep Creek at 2pm.

Adjourned 8:43.