

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 10/16/2023

In attendance:

Al Todd, Alison Sayres, Bill Rappoport, Jeanne Klinger, Karen Minor, Larry Jennings, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger

Cape Liaison: Jennifer Conner

Guests: Sally Curtain, Ginny Clark, Marcia Dudley, Cathy Gazzo, Rose Mary Stocker, Bessie Jackson, Carol Collison

Call to order: 7:03pm.

1. Stacey welcomed the guests, and CCC members introduced themselves.
2. The September CCC meeting minutes were approved.
3. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
 - i. General Fund \$21,119, of which he owes \$1,818 on MD sales tax.
 - ii. Grants Fund: \$4,600.
 - b. Phil described the breakdown of CCC members. 84% of members live in Cape St Claire, and 16% live outside of the community. We have 49 members total, plus two additional new members as of tonight's meeting.
 - c. Website: Phil just posted Stacey's blog and Al's article for Cape Loves Trees, and a few other items on the website, so we are up to date.
4. Stacey described the CCC website. She described our corporate sponsorship and remarked that we've gotten a good response on that. She recognized Cathy Gazzo, our first sponsor. We are thankful for our sponsors.
5. Phil mentioned the Native Plant Fest: Totals sales were over \$30K. Our costs were \$26K. After paying approximately \$1,700 in sales tax, the net profit is a little over \$2K, which is a minimal profit. Stacey added that the goal of the sale is not to be a fundraiser, but instead to encourage people to buy native plants.
6. Stacey described our board of ten people. We can have thirteen people on the board. Marcia Dudley was nominated as a board member, and we approved that motion. We still have two spots for the board. All of the current officers are staying on. Brad K is the Vice President. We are one year into the three-year term for officers, but officers can roll off at any time.
7. Usually, Stacey attends the CSC Board of Governors (BOG) meeting, but this month, she was unable to attend, so she gave her notes on CCC activities to Jennifer Conner, CSCIA board liaison, to read at the monthly meeting. Jennifer's summary of the meeting:
 - a. The final report for the reserve study is back. We need \$78,059 for the first year to comply with state law. Special Community Benefit District contributions for every household will go up \$59 every year, mostly for inflation. Pier slips are going up \$100.
 - b. The Little Magothy River Association (LMRA) got a bid for a river dredge in an amount that was much higher than anticipated. The Cape BOG will put out for more bids. We can use the sand from the dredge for free, so there is room to negotiate for Cape paying for the dredge.
 - c. Revisions to bylaws will be published on December 1st and then presented at the January BOG meeting.
 - d. The Quarterly meeting will be on Tuesday, October 24th.

8. Stacey described the CCC committees and regular activities to our guests:

- a. Weed Warriors: Volunteers meet every Wednesday in the morning and/or evening from 5:00-7:00pm. On average, two bags of weeds are collected per person.
- b. Champion Trees: Al and Robert continue to write articles and measure trees. Al reported that they are going to make one more pass to go see trees for the registry of Champion Trees. He will write some posts on CCC's website and the CCC and I Live in Cape St Claire Facebook pages to appeal for more nominations, they will take their last measurements in November, and then post their final list by the end of the year. Al has mixed feelings about having ribbons around the notable trees unless it's part of an event, maybe in conjunction with the English Ivy removal event this winter.
- c. Garden Advisory: Stacey described how Larry does landscape design and his services are sometimes a raffle item. People are excited to get his services.
- d. Grants committee: Members of this committee meet with Cape St Claire board members for the purpose of getting grant money for improvements such as restoration projects in the community. Five other sites owned by Cape St Claire need to be looked at. One grant is on hold. They are exploring another avenue and partnered with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to get some other grants to allow us to contract planning. The goal is to get all five sites under one grant. Once we get the plan, we can go after grants. We can't do anything without money and permitting.
- e. Corporate Sponsors: This is a more recent endeavor to raise money for CCC projects and give local businesses and individuals a chance to contribute and support our projects and get recognized within the community.
- f. Habitat Hero. Each quarter, Stacey goes out to see nominated properties. Habitat Heroes are rewarded with a hand painted sign for their yard. They get a plant or a gift certificate for plants and a write-up in the Caper and the CCC website, and then of course their properties are part of the Habitat Hero tour. Stacey explained that we are not looking for 100% natives, but more natural habitats, storm water control, no pesticides, and actively removing invasive plants and shrubs. All these aspects make part of a process to provide habitat for pollinators and wildlife.
- g. The Shrub Swap, which usually occurs in Spring, involves removing an invasive shrub to receive in return one to three free native shrubs.

9. Old Business:

- a. We ordered from WSA 79 trees that will go into Little Magothy Beach and Serene Ravine. Al has 60 trees in his yard. We have planting days coming up. We get more plants (a couple hundred) on Wednesday morning around 7-8 am. Planting will be on Saturday to get the trees and shrubs in the ground. The Serene Ravine is overgrown, so we can find places to put in more trees. Marcia added that the Serene Ravine is full of Bush Killer. Stacey noted that spraying has helped, but the vine is relentless. The focus is to try to pull the vines off trees. Stacey has plants for the sunnier slopes. We should get to the Little Magothy Beach at 8am on Wednesday to plant. Planting will continue on Saturday, October 21st at Little Magothy Beach, and on Saturday, October 28th at the Serene Ravine. Next Wednesday, October 25th, Weed Warriors will work at the Serene Ravine. Jennifer asked about the continuation of the Serene Ravine on the other side of Lake Claire Dr, and Stacey said that portion is private property. Brad and Beau met with the County on that. Bush Killer is rampant in that area. Stacey sent out emails with sign-ups.
- b. Olivia West at Broadneck High School has collaborated with us. She's in the Environmental Literacy track at the high school. Stacey wrote a letter of recommendation for her to get into Habitat for Humanity. Homeowners can sign up to have yard work done and give a donation for the work. Stacey suggested we could reach out to Habitat for Humanity to have the kids help us with planting. We all agreed that's a great idea. We will try to get them on October 28th. We'll do two shifts: 9-11am and 11-1pm.

- c. The En Plein Air event was yesterday, with several artists and two music groups (Tiger Lilly and Maureen Thomas, John, Amy). The art from that event items, along with two photos and an acrylic picture of a heron, will be auctioned off at the November 3rd speaker event. Some of the art are framed. We'll also do a raffle drawing for a valuable rare guitar. Phil added that on the CCC website, people can buy raffle tickets for the guitar. The Speaker is David Sikorski. Al said we should send out social media posts at least once a week on the CCC website and Facebook page, and do a weekly email blast about it. Al contributed a framed print of the Magothy River map as a prize as well.
- d. We got a donation from the Bee Lab. Bill and David Shulke went to that event and brought back a trailer of perennials, to be planted at the Little Magothy Beach and the Serene Ravine.
- e. The Cape Vibes event was held on October 8th. Al's band played. It was a sunny, windy day. CCC Partnered with Broadneck Bluegrass. A total of \$850 was raised from selling raffle tickets. We gave away several things and gift certificates that day. It was super fun. Al described how this came about: Jessie and Charlie were having open mic sessions during the week, and Sunday afternoon free concerts at Main Beach. They both volunteered to collaborate with us to benefit CCC. People had asked about giving donations. Rob Hamilton donated all the guitars for the raffle and a guitar lesson at School of Rock. Al added that this event raised the profile of CCC. Some people donated without buying raffle tickets.
- f. Stone or edging at the Little Magothy Beach was needed so plants don't get mowed down. CCC partnered with Cathy Gazzo to remove invasive plants in exchange for stones. Marcia, Jeanne, and Bill removed bittersweet and ivy in Cathy's yard. Bill and Brad loaded up Cathy's flagstone to lay at Little Magothy Beach. The plan this fall is to mulch the paths at Little Magothy Beach and Serene Ravine. Jeanne suggested Habitat For Humanity or scouts to help with spreading mulch.
- g. Stacey suggested a little library with guidebooks and journaling books that could be used at the Serene Ravine to identify birds or list of birds seen. We are hoping to partner with someone on that. Stacey talked to a scout leader who wants to do a project to earn a silver award. She finally got back to Stacey on it. The scout leader declined the project. Stacey asked if anyone looking for a scout project, to let her know.

10. New Business:

- a. Our quarterly Broadneck Grill fundraiser night is this Wednesday at from 5:00-9:00pm. Take out orders are included. Phil described that every three months, they donate 10% of the food bill to CCC. You can also get half price bottles of wine. Broadneck Grill's donations usually total about \$1K a year. Stacey reiterated that we made Broadneck Grill a corporate sponsor in recognition of their generosity.
- b. Speaker event: Stacey will bring a water jug. Jeanne (cookies), Karen, and Marcia will bring something food-wise.
- c. Stacey will send information on the Habitat For Humanity yard work info.
- d. Volunteers needed for 1) a Trifold brochure of photos of us doing our activities. Alison volunteered to work on that; 2) little library; 3) Plein air photos matted and framed (Al said he has a bunch of frames and asked Stacey to give measurements); 4) hang signs this week at big shopping center. Jeanne volunteered to do that.
- e. Al gave an update on the issue of revegetating the new bike trail. The county has done an atrocious job at mitigation and planting. Al contacted Amanda Fiedler and Bud Reeves. He sent a long letter, and got a response from A.A. Parks and Recreation. No reply from Department of Public Works yet. Eventually, we can decide to mobilize CCC as a secondary voice on this. The County is not even meeting their own's mitigation guidelines for removing trees. One of our guests said the Rails to Trails annual meeting is tomorrow night. She attended the meeting at the library about traffic

problems. One person advised her that, when writing organizations, to copy the state governor. This person met the governor and she said he wants to hear what the people think. She said it couldn't hurt. Betsy Jackson suggested to Al to contact the County Executive. Alison added that her second grade talked about the scenarios of cutting down trees. Maybe the students can write letters too. Al said the lack of replanting is not for a lack of funding. He added that the paved path is not appealing and is extremely hot due to no shade. He will keep us informed. We all agreed to join in his efforts. Al will write something else for signing and sending to them. Marcia suggested all CCC board members sign it.

- f. Jennifer said that Green Valley Market has wanted to get into the Strawberry Festival. They clearly want to participate to have the opportunity to increase their visibility, so if we are looking for a donation of a tray or snack at one of our events, we should keep them in mind.

Adjourned 8:17pm.