

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 12/18/2023

In attendance:

Board members: Alison Sayres Al Todd, Bill Rappoport, Brad Knopf, Christie Fowler, Jeanne Klinger, Karen Minor, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger

Guests: Betsy Jackson, John Runyon

Call to order: 7:07pm.

1. The November CCC meeting minutes were approved.
2. Treasurers report:
 - a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
 - i. General Fund \$23,174,
 - ii. Grants Fund is depleted to zero. (The last was used to spray the Bushkiller in the Serene Ravine.)
 - b. Phil emailed a graph of the evolution of CCC's financial assets over the years.
 - c. Website - Not much to keep up.
 - d. Phil attended an interesting 3-hour webinar from the Chesapeake Bay Trust on Maryland invasive plants. One of the speakers was Bud Reeves. Phil put all that he learned on the seminar on CCC's blog. Stacey complimented him on how well-written it is.
3. Stacey attended the most recent CSCIA BOG meeting. Her summary:
 - a. January is the quarterly meeting: voting will include changes to Special Community Benefit due to the required reserve study. Also, look at your Caper to see who's running for officer positions on the Board.
 - b. Discussion of crosswalk on Cape St Claire Rd.
 - c. On track for memorial bench and Garden Club's two benches.
 - d. Mary asked for photos of CCC projects for the "Year in Review" of the Caper 's February issue.
 - e. Grants committee - The alliance is working on things that are due in the Spring. Federal on hold.
 - f. Broadneck Council – They will do some tweaks on the road. Some people are not happy on the Thursday & Friday backtracking, but most are satisfied. A lot of expense for police for monitoring and the State Highway Administration to repeatedly put barriers up and take them down.
 - g. Beau mentioned the bamboo.
4. Committee reports:
 - a. Weed Warriors: On hiatus for now.
 - b. Big Trees: Al will get to Phil the expanded tree list for the website soon. He got more measurements made. Has two left to do.
 - c. Garden Advisory: Nothing happening.
 - d. Grants: No updates.
 - e. Corporate Sponsors. Nothing new. Stacey will reach out after holidays.
 - f. Habitat Heroes. Stacey working on it.
5. Old business:
 - a. The Save Our Trees event to remove invasive ivy was last Saturday. It was well attended, with twenty-one volunteers, 38 bags filled, and 98 trees saved. A lady from Anne Arundel Weed Resistance attended and she brought some great tools. Also attending was a Cape resident, Maxine Yoon, the Master Gardener Coordinator for Anne Arundel County and Horticulture Agent Associate

for the University of Maryland, as well as Susan Minnemeyer, a Severna Park resident, and the Geospatial Program Manager at the Chesapeake Conservancy. Al suggested that a cool speaker event would be to have Maxine speak about what Master Gardeners do and how they organize. Bill said the Master Gardeners put out a weekly newsletter, the Friday Flash. Stacey talked to Brian Gugerty, a resident in the area about doing another invasive ivy removal event this winter. He's been emailing about that. Stacey emphasized that another workday should be at Deep Creek again. She will try to get a Vegetative Management Plan (VMP) in place so we're not as restricted on what we can pull or remove since within 100 ft buffer. She would get the VMP for the whole Deep Creek area. Bud Reeves is retiring soon. The plan will be to implement "cut and dab" to kill the bamboo. Beau is hoping that the clearing of bamboo will make room for the boats.

- b. Brad has 12 boxes full of environmental books from Zora Latham. It's quite a collection that will be great for Stacey's idea of Little Libraries. Brad is happy to have people look through the books. We should have a plaque for Zora. Rainscaping.org was her organization. Part of the library will be for taking books, another part to house books to borrow, and another area for art. Stacey would like the top shelf to hold guidebooks, and any books for taking on the bottom shelf. We'll have stickers on each book to designate whether it's for borrowing or taking. Stacey suggested using some books from Zora's collection as raffle items. We need to organize or categorize the books. Al asked if the Broadneck High School (BHS) Environmental Club has a library. Stacey Roth works at BHS and is the Signature Site Coordinator for Anne Arundel County Schools (AACPS). Jeanne has room to store the books in her basement if needed. Jeanne asked to vote officially to have a plaque commemorating each library to Zora. It was approved. Brad will let Zora know.

6. New business:

- a. The rain garden at Little Magothy Beach has gotten overrun with leaves. Stacey talked to someone to rake some of the leaves off the slope by the rocks so the plants we put in don't get smothered. We might have a future workday to take care of that.
- b. Stacey reached out to Bud Reeves about the dangerous leaning tree in the Serene Ravine. He contacted the County Department of Public Works about it, and they will take the leaning part of the tree down.
- c. Stacey had another thought about ivy removal. Many people were interested to take down ivy. She suggested perhaps having a sign-up where we go out to Cape St Claire residents' yards for a mini lesson to demonstrate proper removal techniques. It would take 15-20 minutes for each yard. Al suggested door hangers with a sticker on the back to ask residents if they would like assistance with dealing with an ivy problem. We would teach and do one tree so that the homeowner can keep going. Betsy added that not everyone knows the vines are a problem.
- d. 2024 Calendar of Events: Stacey sent around a request to remember all the things CCC did this year, including hosting events and reaching out to community. Looking to this year, the following are on our agenda:
 - i. Phil asked Leslie to pencil him in for a Wednesday or Thursday in March for us to have a speaker event. We agreed on Wednesday, March 20th for a Master Gardener speaker event. Stacey will reach out to Maxine. Phil will book the Clubhouse and reserve the signboard once he hears back from Stacey.
 - ii. Project Clean Stream will be Saturday, April 6th. Phil will reserve the signboard for it.
 - iii. The April Weed Warrior Kickoff/Open House will be on Friday, April 12th at Deep Creek this year to get it more into the weeding rotation. Stacey votes no Earth Day craft.

- iv. A planting day in the Spring, end of April/early May. We will plant the 276 plants first. Jeanne has covered up 276 plants lovingly, and tomorrow, she will dump some leaves on them.
- v. The Invasive Swap will be in mid-May again. We agreed on Saturday, May 4th. We'll have to figure out what plants to target. We could be broader and list several possible ones to remove. The 3-gallon shrubs looked better than the spindly 1-gallon shrubs.
- vi. The Habitat Hero Tour will be on a Saturday in June, on the 15th or 22nd. Stacey can reach out to the Habitat Heroes to see when they are available. Brendon from last year wasn't available for the tour, but maybe he would be available this year. Stacey has a few possibilities in mind for additional Habitat Heroes. We can also just add the Little Magothy as one of our sites on the tour. Phil will reserve the signboard for it once he hears back from Stacey on the date.
- vii. July & August are too hot for anything other than early morning Weed Warriors.
- viii. August: Cape Vibes possibly? We'll see if they reach out.
- ix. The Native Plant Sale will be on Saturday, September 21st. Phil verified that he reserved the signboard for it.
 - x. Planting on one or more weekends in October.
 - xi. Friday November 8th: another speaker event.
 - xii. Mulching in November.
 - xiii. December: Ivy removal again.
- e. Rain barrel giveaway. You must get at least 25 of them. Brad reached out to Jeff Popp at Watershed Steward Academy. They will deal with that.
- f. Volunteer opportunities:
 - i. Design a tri-fold brochure or other marketing material. Alison is working on that.
 - ii. Hosting of the ivy demos in people's yards. We should do that in pairs, and we can hold several in the day. Stacey will throw out some dates. She has plenty of door hangers and flyers.
 - iii. College scholarships: Jeanne, Stacey, Phil, and Alison met and pooled ideas from us, Broadneck High School, and South County Concert Association, and they brainstormed on what the application would look like. Al gave his revisions of the application and Stacey accepted all of them. In the meeting, we reviewed and discussed each part of the application. We agreed that the count of hours of environmental work by an applicant, even if approximate, is significant. Once the changes have been made, Jeanne will reach out again to Allison Davis, Environmental Literacy Lead Teacher and Liaison for AACPS.
- g. Stacey welcomed Betsy and John to come again to our meetings, and she expressed her appreciation for their volunteer time, and that if they have any interest in joining the CCC board, to let us know.

Adjourned 8:54pm.