

## Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 02/19/2024

### In attendance:

#### Board members:

Alison Sayres, Betsy Jackson, Bill Rappoport, Christie Fowler, Jeanne Klinger, Larry Jennings, Karen Minor, Marcia Dudley, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger

#### Cape Liaison:

Jennifer Conner

#### Guests:

Cathy Gazzo, Cathy and Rebecca Sawyer, Ginny Klocko

### Call to order: 7:06pm.

1. The January CCC meeting minutes were approved pending corrections Stacey provided Karen.
2. Treasurer's report:
  - a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
    - i. General Fund: \$24,422
    - ii. Grants Fund: \$0
  - b. Phil started the process of applying to the Maryland Charity Campaign. Last time, we received a \$96 grant.
  - c. Website:
    - i. Updated for next Broadneck Grill donation night on Wednesday, April 17th. Last quarter, we received \$279.
    - ii. Phil posted information about Project Clean Stream and the upcoming Speaker event.
    - iii. Phil asked for some graphics to post for the Weed Warriors kickoff. Stacey will get some from Brad when he gets back.
    - iv. Phil also requested a graphic for the Native Plant Swap, and he'll need the list of plants that we'll offer. (Stacey said only one person has signed up so far.)
    - v. Phil has the dates for the Habitat Heroes Tour, but he needs details about the tour.
    - vi. Phil noted that our events are in calendar format on the CCC website now.
    - vii. Stacey said she didn't give Phil anything for the blog this month, but she submitted an article for the Caper that will have Al's tree list, and she described who we are, garden advisory, and corporate sponsorships.
    - viii. Phil said we've gotten spam on the website that are comments to our postings. He told Bill S, and Bill responded that we can't do anything about it. Phil noted that it's a secure website.
3. Stacey attended the most recent CSCIA BOG meeting. Her summary:
  - a. Jessie Corlis with Cape Vibes has applied to be a recognized organization in CSC. It's voted on in closed session. We will hear back from Jess on what dates will benefit CCC. The tentative dates are June 23rd and September 15<sup>th</sup>, both from 2-6 pm.
  - b. Reminder about yellow cards for vehicle stickers.
  - c. The bench in memorial of Tripper Logan is approved and on order and will arrive in March. It will be placed near the walkway at Main Beach.
  - d. Some Broadneck Council meetings are planned.
  - e. They will work on applying for 2024 grants.
  - f. Starting construction of the new firehouse has been delayed. Work was supposed to start this Spring but is delayed in part by the need to rip out step pools and the replanting required for mitigation.

4. Little Libraries for the Serene Ravine (SR) and Little Magothy Beach (LMB):

- a. Rebecca Sawyer gave her update: She hasn't gotten a definite Yes from the Girl Scout Council. A person at council loved her idea, so Rebecca is optimistic she will be approved. So far, she's on a good timeline, and hopefully she'll hear back by the end of the month, at which time she'll move forward with a site visit to decide the locations for the libraries and finalize the blueprints. She's keeping Stacey informed.
- b. Rebecca summarized why the libraries are important:
  - i. Focused on education. We are a military community, so residents frequently move in and out. People may not come from around here, so the libraries will inform what plants and trees are indigenous to this area, and offer different ways to get more information, such as through the CCC website, pamphlets, books, and journals,
  - ii. Sustainability, in that CCC will keep the libraries stocked and replenished.
  - iii. The libraries will include variety of materials that will benefit a wide range of ages.
  - iv. They libraries will have links to the CCC website, links to apps to identify types of birds, links to places like DNR or other sites that are useful. The plan is to have a scannable QR code on each library. One library each is planned for LMB and Serene Ravine.
- c. We gave our feedback and asked a few questions:
  - i. Stacey said Rebecca did a very impressive and thorough job. Stacey asked Rebecca if, once she gets approval, she could do a presentation at the Cape board meeting. Rebecca said Yes. Beau can put Rebecca's presentation first in the CSCIA meeting agenda. Stacey is writing a \$5K Mini Grant through the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) to help with replanting from the tree damage in the SR and LMB. In part of the grant application, Stacey described Rebecca's Little Library project. Stacey asked for extra funds for this project, since education is part of restoration.
  - ii. Betsy praised the library design and the idea of the green roof, and she asked if each library would have signs or labels to designate where the various categories of materials would be shelved. Rebecca affirmed that there will be labels to that effect.
  - iii. Marcia asked if Rebecca could take donations personally, to which Rebecca responded Yes.
  - iv. Larry suggested 84 Lumber as a possible source for donations. Rebecca is waiting for approval still, but she will include 84 Lumber on her list of companies to approach.
  - v. Cathy Sawyer asked if CSCIA needs to know the exact spot of each library now, but Stacey thought No. Phil noted that CSCIA's Parks committee chairman (Neil) would ultimately need to approve the locations.
  - vi. Jeanne reported that her friend counted over twenty species of birds at LMB tonight. Jeanne is excited to see what birds will be identified and recorded in the libraries' journals by visitors.
  - vii. Stacey thanked Rebecca and her mom Cathy for coming.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. Weed Warriors: The first official date will be Wednesday, April 10th. Stacey deferred to our main WW's to decide the times which would best for them. Stacey will still run an evening weeding session. They agreed to start in the afternoon for now (starts at 5pm). Stacey will do a Spring cleanup on Friday, March 8th at LMB (2 sessions, 8:30-10 and an afternoon one). She'll send a Sign-Up Genius to work on the leaves in the rain garden, with a reminder to bring rakes and bags. Many leaves are piled up along to road, but there are bare spots we can cover with those leaves.

- b. Big Trees: Stacey posted his final map and that will also be in the Caper.
- c. Garden Advisory: Larry met with first client who will be purchasing about \$3-4K worth of plants. The other project will be for his client, Thor Harris.
- d. Grants: Stacey is working on a CBT Mini Grant.
- e. Corporate Sponsors: No updates.
- f. Habitat Heroes: Stacey asked Carol Collison about June 15th as tentative date.

## 6. Old Business:

- a. Invasive Plant Swap. Stacey still working on the shrubs list and hopefully we'll get some additional participants. She will be ordering trees and shrubs for the swap, so if we want to order any, let Stacey know.
- b. CCC membership dues are almost all paid.
- c. For the CCC scholarship, no applications have been received yet. Stacey emailed Alison Davis to ask if she has heard of any interest yet.
- d. The Save Our Trees ivy removal event went well. About 15 people attended and several large bags of English Ivy were collected. We got a membership out of it too. Stacey has promised to share when Save Our Trees events occur, and they have promised to do the same by sharing about CCC events.
- e. Some of the huge logs at LMB will not be removed. Hopefully, we can get some cut up with a chainsaw and use some throughout the site. One 20 ft tall redbud tree died. The CBT grant will help pay for some replacement trees that we order from Tree Troopers. We could push the tree planting to Fall.
- f. Upcoming events in 2024:
  - i. Wednesday, Mar 27th our speaker Maxine Da-Som Yoon. She will speak about pollinator gardens and the Master Gardener program. Doors open 6:30, Maxine will speak until 7:45, followed by Q&A. CCC members, including Christie, Jeanne, Betsy, Stacey, and Karen, will bring snacks, water, and paper goods.
  - ii. Project Clean Stream will be is Saturday, April 6th. We'll talk more about that next month's CCC meeting with Brad.
  - iii. The WW kickoff, on Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 5:30-7:30pm, will be informational and an opportunity to get people involved. We voted for LMB this year and we'll have pizza.
  - iv. Saturday April 13th, Goshen Spring Open House. Stacey sent out an email about it. We need people to man a CCC table from 10am-2pm. She'll send out a Sign Up Genuis for that.

## 7. New Business:

- a. Jeanne asked about the Spring planting and if we could tag onto the order for Kind Grower plugs. Stacey can send us all a link to tag onto that.
- b. Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA): If someone wants to become a steward, the course is \$300, and CCC would pay for half of that. The informational session is this week. No one in CCC indicated an interest in doing it this year. Stacey described the WSA class, the class schedule, and what capstone projects are. They will break the class into teams that do a single capstone project together. The motion passed to partner with WS to build a new (replacement but smaller) rain garden and approach CSCIA to put on some money into that new rain garden on clubhouse property and promise not to destroy it. CCC and WS would maintain it.

- c. For the Senate & House bills on sale of invasive plants and adding to the list of banned invasives, Stacey encouraged all to use the letter to submit it to our representatives to support the bills. We can describe CCC's mission and activities and describe how many invasives and how terrible invasive plants have been in and around our community. Larry said he can orally testify at the hearing on the law. Betsy asked about when the hearing is. We should get our letters in by next week, such as two days before the first hearing. Larry said address it to the committee. Larry will send us the details.
  - d. November speaker: Phil mentioned he will reach out to the Nature Conservancy about doing a speaker event. They proposed giving an update about their efforts in MD & VA. Phil told them they can do one even independent of CCC, and CCC can sponsor them. We want an educational presentation. Marcia suggested a bird-related speaker in the Fall.
  - e. CBT Mini Grant. Stacey is working on the application and listed Phil as the lead volunteer. Stacey will send Phil her narrative to proof. She hopes to get it submitted within the next couple weeks.
8. Additional comments:
- a. Stacey created a Facebook birthday fundraiser and collected over \$300. We'll get the money in two months or so.
  - b. Bill reported that the Master Gardeners Seed Swap was a tremendous success. Christie said it was standing room only in a giant room filled with people. Thousands of packets of seeds were handed out. A speaker explained how to handle the seeds, such as cold stratifying. It was very well attended. Many seeds were left over. Fifteen paper bags were given to the various libraries, like was done last year. Seed library to get the leftovers. This event has become more popular since COVID. Many organizations nationwide are having seed swaps.
  - c. Alison Milligan's talk at Broadneck library last month was very good. Several of CCC went. As always, her talk was very interesting. Stacy got to meet Alison Davis, and some people asked Stacey about the Garden Advisory, and Stacey gave out some of Larry's cards.
  - d. Marcia said she has many Nature Conservancy calendars and asked for suggestions on where to give them out.
  - e. Betsy asked about the content in the tri-fold brochure that we will give out. Stacey said it would describe CCC projects and our mission statement. Alison says she will work on it.
  - f. Regarding hosting ivy removal in people's yards, we haven't done that yet, but this idea will remain on our list of projects.

Adjourned 8:28.