

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 04/15/2024

In attendance:

Board members:

Al Todd, Alison Sayres, Betsy Jackson, Bill Rappoport, Brad Knopf, Christie Fowler, Jeanne Klinger, Karen Minor, Larry Jennings, Marcia Dudley, Stacey Wildberger, Tonya Powell

Cape Liaison:

Jennifer Conner

Guests:

Cathy Gazzo

Call to order: 7:11pm.

1. We toasted a farewell and Happy Birthday to Al. Al told us about his background and how happy he was to be part of our group.
2. The March CCC meeting minutes were approved pending changes from Stacey and Brad.
3. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
 - i. General Fund: \$27,531
 - ii. Grants Fund: \$0
 - b. Phil had emailed the board about adding insurance for CCC. We voted in favor of volunteer accident insurance with Moran. Al asked how extensive it is, and we have some additional questions. Betsy suggested we think of our questions ahead of time before next meeting's discussion with Phil on the topic.
4. Stacey attended the most recent CSCIA BOG meeting. Her summary:
 - a. Resident vehicle stickers should be applied by May 1.
 - b. Beach attendants are being hired. They have 11 returning beach attendants and have set up 27 interviews for additional hires.
 - c. The memorial bench to Tripper Logan was installed and there was a beautiful dedication ceremony for it, with 70-80 people in attendance.
 - d. Mosquito control has submitted their application to get approval. You can opt out by submitting a form. The office has forms. The opt-out lasts three years.
 - e. Broadneck High School had a beach cleanup on Saturday, April 13th.
 - f. The July 4th parade was discussed. CCC will not participate in the parade.
 - g. The Broadneck Council of Communities (BCC) had their meeting postponed to May 25th to discuss the transfer of Holly Beach and long-term planning on the Broadneck Peninsula.
 - h. Piers collection is 95%.
 - i. Cape St Claire received the \$75K grant to start planning the different sites and projects. Cape St Claire Grants committee representatives will work with the Alliance of the Chesapeake Bay and Biohabitats. The Grants committee had some CCC members that helped. They are putting together another grant application for another \$75K. Once additional grants come through, it will be easier to get further grants for much more money.
 - j. A Girl Scout troop applied to be a recognized group by Cape St Claire.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. Weed Warriors started off with bang last Wednesday. Ten people originally signed up, but it ended up being the "Fab 5" (Marcia, Jeanne, Brad, Stacey, and Bill) who showed up to work. Much was accomplished that evening. The following Friday a few additional people weeded. Forsythia and Liriope were removed. Betsy is going to work on the Liriope. This coming Wednesday evening will be at Serene Ravine. Stacey will bring some things to plant. A lot is blooming right now. Al asked if we need water in a wheelbarrow and the water turned on. Stacey accepted. The following week will be back at Little Magothy Beach. The following Saturday, May 4th, we will be planting from 9-11am and 1-3pm.
- b. Big Trees: Al will reach out to Robert about taking over the Big Trees Committee when Al moves away but hasn't heard back from him. Stacey asked everyone if they want to be part of the committee. Betsy asked what that would entail, such as writing articles every now and then. It's good to have a background in forestry or trees, but Al emphasized it's about your interest and communicating those interests regarding trees in articles you would write. Stacey said any one of us could research a topic and write about it. Brad suggested a committee rather than a lead. He volunteered being part of that effort. We will need to change the Big Trees email to go to Brad. Brad volunteers to be part of that. Marcia said she's willing to be part of that. Cathy volunteered to be involved too. Ali volunteered too. Stacey suggested we could ask Bud Reeves to write an article.
- c. Garden Advisory: Larry said it's off to a brisk start. Larry said Drea has at least 30 Nandina. She is enthusiastic. Another client, Nick, contacted Larry today. He lives off CSC Rd in the Green Holly community (Darlow Dr).
- d. Grants: see BOG notes.
- e. Corporate Sponsors: Got another sponsor--a tree company Genesis Tree care at 1K level. Ali dropped off info to Vizzini's. Betsy hoped to get info back from Hague. Brad asked if we need him to design certificates for our CCC sponsors.
- f. Habitat Heroes: Weekends are so busy so will be Tuesday Jun 4, 5:30-7:30; Carol Collison (has a mix of natives and non-natives), George Mauer has an awesome back yard to make a woodland shaded garden with natives and paths and many birds (see CSC bird page) He also participated in the swap. Stacey gave him a Winterberry female and male and took out Butterfly bush; Brenden Curran (we will end up at his house). Stacey will give us the addresses. Maybe we can put up some plants to give out. We need to visit 3 yards and only spend a half hour per yard. Brad will do flyers and will post on Facebook.

6. Old Business:

- a. Little Libraries update: Rebecca continues to amaze. She made a nice flyer to hand out Friday night at the WW kickoff. That flyer will go in the May Caper. She and her mother went to Brad's house and looked through Laura Lathan's books. They took 40 books and may come back to get more. Betsy asked if we need more bird guidebooks. She has one Peterson's version. Rebecca's plan to install is July.
- b. The Invasive Plant Swap is done. We have only two shrubs left: Stacey has a beautiful dwarf Fothergilla at LMB.. It's \$20 if someone wants to buy it. Betsy said she'll buy it.
- c. Scholarships: They received 3 scholarship applications. The committee will meet next Monday and see if they agree on the first choice. Ali, Stacey, Marcia, Jeanne, and Phil are on the committee. They will each vote and give the scholarship to most worthy applicant.

d. 2024 Calendar of Events:

- i. All agreed that the Speaker event on Wednesday, March 27th with Maxine Da-Sum Yoon on pollinator gardens and the Master Gardener program went well. It was well attended and we provided an array of good food.
 - ii. Project Clean Stream on Saturday, April 6th was successful. 49 people attended and 70 bags of litter were gathered. It was a good day and lots of young people participated.
 - iii. The Weed Warriors Open House was on Friday, April 12th at LMB. We discussed how we can improve attendance. Stacey noted that maybe the Weed Warriors name was off-putting. Ali suggested renaming this event in the future as the Cape Conservation Corps Open House. Jennifer added that the article about it didn't show up in her Facebook feed until after the event. Ali also suggested changing the Caper article to just highlight this one event.
 - iv. The Goshen Farm Open House was the following day. Betsy, Jeanne, Marcia, Larry, and Stacey hosted the CCC table there. They all observed some CCC name recognition. Stacey reported that we got some sign-ups to add more names to our mailing list. Someone from Harbor School could do a day of service with students again. That could be something for them to do next year, such as pulling English Ivy. Stacey got her contact information. Stacey's neighbor said they are giving us their jeans money.
 - v. After WW is the Broadneck Grill fundraiser night. This Wednesday May 17th. Dine in or carry out.
 - vi. Saturday, May 4th is planting day at LMB.
 - vii. The Strawberry Festival is Saturday, June 1st. Stacey reached out to Alison Davis or Stacey Rother about the 3-way folding prop about the monarch life cycle. Will do signups for the festival. We can show the kids how to make the pots. Marcia, Jeanne, and Betsy made the pots, and Stacey has the soil to fill them.
- e. The Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) offered to partner with CCC to revive the rain garden on the Cape Clubhouse grounds. Stacey brought that up to BOG, and the bottom line is they are not doing it. Beau's response is that they might need the rain garden as mitigation for the deck. Stacey let Jeff at WSA know.
- f. Stacey said she still hasn't heard back on the Chesapeake Bay Trust Mini Grant.
- g. Today was pick up of plants from Providence Center. Brad Hill got some plants, Stacey's Mom, and David Schulke. Christie Roberts got some too. You had to order 6 of something. Stacey has some left and listed them for us at the meeting. She asked us to let her know if we are interested. Any plants leftover can go in the ravines.
- h. Stacey talked to Christie at Richard's Tree Service. Christie offered to cut up some of the downed tree logs into the circles to act as steppingstones at LMB.

7. New Business

- a. We are still trying to figure that a date for the CCC Plein Air event. Stacey said the artist who painted the picture of the kayaks last year said she could paint anywhere at any time. Another idea Stacey suggested was to have the Plein Air painting happen at the Cape Vibes event, which is a month away, where we start earlier in the day with painting, and then show the art pieces during Cape Vibes. We agreed that if we kick the Plein Air event to this Fall, that's fine too.
- b. For the Native Plant Sale, Stacey ordered \$10K of plants from the Providence Center, and she's also put in the order for plugs from North Creek nurseries.

- c. Stacey had an idea regarding Spring ephemerals. She talked to Rachel at Providence Center about the prospect of selling five each of five different ephemerals for a set price as a preorder. It's hard to get ephemerals. Some possibilities are Wild Ginger, Virginia Bluebells, Trillium, Grandiflora Bellwort, and Woodland Phlox. Rachel and Stacey will determine what the list will be, and we will gather orders in the Fall. Al suggested that an order of 25 plants may be too expensive, and that perhaps we should do a package in a way so people could afford it, such as three of each type. In any case, we would sell a limited number and have people prepay. Stacey asked Rachel to grow more Virginia Bluebells for the ravines since they are so impressive. Our North Creek order will be ready the end of next month.
- d. Providence Center rarely has retail sales, but on Friday & Saturday, May 10th and 11th, which fall on Mother's Day weekend, they will be selling 6-inch pots for \$6. Please support them. Al noted that Providence Center contract grows for anybody for big projects. Jeanne added that they are growing the veggies at Goshen that get donated to My Brothers Pantry. She said if there's anything not on the list, they will grow it for us.
- e. Ali reported that she picked up her plants from Alison Milligan for Broadneck Elementary School. Ali is the green lead at her school, she will take kids out to Poplar Island to release their pet terrapin, "Pickles", whom the students have been raising. It's a State program. Poplar Island was recreated from dredge soil. The students will be able to do some hands-on activities at the island.
- f. Al told the people that bought his house about CCC. They wanted to know about it and would like to join. They are happy to help with providing water for the Serene Ravine. CCC should do some outreach to them.
- g. Al read aloud an article from the 1983 anniversary edition of the Caper about the history of Cape St Claire. It was extremely interesting.
- h. Brad said the Bee-Safe Mosquito Control presentation at Cathy Haggerty's house was very well received. Francesca with WSA is putting together some documents on it.

Adjourned 8:40pm.