

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 03/18/2024

In attendance:

Board members:

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

Cape Liaison:

Jennifer Conner

Guests:

Cathy Gazzo, Andrea Elward, and her friend Adam

Call to order: 7:05pm.

1. The February CCC meeting minutes were approved pending corrections.
2. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
 - i. General Fund: \$27,531
 - ii. Grants Fund: \$0
 - b. Phil submitted the application to the Maryland Charity Campaign and renewed our Silver standing with the Charity Guide.
 - c. Phil made some updates to the CCC website.
 - d. For future speaker events:
 - i. Phil contacted Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) about a speaker and received a promise from them to provide a speaker in November. The topic will be on birds.
 - ii. Graul's agreed to donate a platter for the March speaker.
3. Stacey attended the most recent CSCIA BOG meeting. Her summary:
 - a. Rebecca Sawyer presented and got the thumbs up from the Board. Frank emailed Stacey to proceed.
 - b. Piers is back to 90+. Contracts have been sent out.
 - c. The Broadneck Council hosting Amanda Fiedler and Planning and Zoning at the Clubhouse on Thursday, March 28th 7-9pm to discuss the proposal to have BMX racing track at Bay Head Park. A feasibility study was completed, and the comments were robust.
 - d. The community is gearing up for mosquito spraying. If residents don't want their property sprayed, they can opt out. The form can be accessed online, or residents can stop by the Clubhouse for a copy of the form. Brad noted that the Asian Tiger is the main mosquito, which is out during the day, but the County only sprays at night.
4. Committee Reports:
 - a. Weed Warriors: At Little Magothy Beach (LMB) on Friday, March 8th, helpers came out for a mini session of spreading out the fallen leaves that were covering plants and preventing them from coming through. The first official weeding date will be April 10th.
 - b. Big Trees: Al will be moving, and it's unsure if Robert will take over.
 - c. Garden Advisory: Larry said his Advisory work is picking up. He has two projects. Our guest, Andrea Elward, said she would like a Garden Advisory visit. She is participating in the Native Shrub Swap and requested some help with digging up the Nandina.

- d. Grants: Nothing yet heard back from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Stacey submitted her application to the CBT Mini Grant for \$3,100.
- e. Corporate Sponsors: We have a new sponsor. Marcia had reached out to Donnelly's. They were receptive, and they came in with \$250. Bill S. put their logo on the website. Jeanne approached Anglers already, and she said we need to add Cape Hair Scene. Betsy approached Ace Hardware but didn't approach the manager; however, Debra gave us \$100 gift cards for auctioning in the Fall. Alison volunteered to approach Vizzini's. Betsy said she might try approaching Hague Water company.
- f. Habitat Heroes: Stacey finally visited George Mauer's yard on Crestview Drive. Stacey gave him the Habitat Hero sign for his yard, along with some winterberry shrubs (two females and a male) since he's a Habitat Hero and he's participating in the Native Shrub Swap. He has ferns and spring ephemerals. We'll visit his yard, Carol Collison's yard, and Brenden Curren's yard to see the turtle rescue setup. Stacey is thinking a weekday evening tour in the Spring will hopefully work out with all 3 Habitat Heroes. Stacey is working on a write-up on Carol and George. She will send it to Phil when ready.

5. Old Business:

- a. The Invasive Plant Swap is going well. Most of the shrubs are spoken for or picked up. Stacey maybe has 1-2 *Itea Virginicas* and 2-3 *Viburnums* left. There are a few people who have sent Stacey photos of what they dug up. She might ask helpers on our board to pick them up.
- b. Little Libraries update: Stacey met with Rebecca Sawyer and her Mom last night. Rebecca is rolling with it. They discussed the plants for the green roof. Rebecca will start approaching Ace and 84 Lumber. She can't ask for cash donations, but only in-kind donations. A generous anonymous donor donated \$200 to her project. Stacey will meet with Rebecca tomorrow at both ravines to determine the location of each library. Cathy Gazzo volunteered that she has some materials to donate too. Rebecca wants to create a website with information about plants and animals and links to sites that could be good. If we think of any sites to link to, let Stacey know. Brad suggested iNaturalist.
- c. Scholarships: Stacey reported that we had one submission for the \$1K scholarship, and the applicant seems to be a very good candidate. The deadline is April 1st. Alison Davis said there were two people interested, so Stacey will reach out to her.
- d. 2024 Calendar of Events :
 - i. Speaker event on Wednesday, March 27th. Doors open 6:30-7pm. Maxine Da-Sum Yoon will speak about pollinator gardens and the Master Gardener program. Brad made the flyer, and they were passed out at the meeting for distributing throughout the community. We will provide snacks and water. We have gift certificates to raffle. Whimsicality won't be a corporate sponsor, but they will donate something for the raffle. Jeanne volunteered to pick it up.
 - ii. Project Clean Stream will be Saturday, April 6 from 9am-12pm. Meet across from Graul's. Brad will have a map with choices of locations. Brad has flyers. Bill brought up the past conflict with parking between Clean Stream participants and users of the ball field. Brad noted that he talked to the County about that and was assured there will be no conflict this year.

- iii. The Weed Warriors Open House will be on Friday, April 12th, from 5:30-7:30pm at LMB. Bill will pick up pizzas. Snacks committee will bring various snacks. Stacey will bring water. Need flyer.
- iv. The Goshen Farm Open House is the next day, and we agreed to have a table at that event. We'll have flyers of upcoming events and collect donations. Betsy asked if Stacey needs materials. Stacey has gotten enough people to have two CCC representatives signed up for each table: Betsy, Marcia, & Stacey 11am-2pm. Jeanne and Stacey 12-2pm. Stacey will send out the sign up again. Christie thinks she signed up too.
- v. Cape Vibe dates: CCC will be benefitted June 23rd & Sept 15th from 2-6 pm at Main Beach. We'll have a table and listen to music. Phil asked if they will be preparing graphics. Stacey will approach them.
- vi. Watershed Stewards Academy Class 16 capstone project will be a rain garden. Stacey didn't get a chance to bring it up at the BOG meeting.
- vii. November speaker: As noted above, Phil has been in contact with CBF for this event.
- e. For the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Mini Grant, Stacey submitted her application for \$3,100. We may need to push planting date back since there is an 8-week lead time on the grant. Worst case, we plant once we get the approval letter. They don't want it paid until we get the grant.
- f. In the meantime, we can start removing invasive plants at LMB on the left-hand side of the driveway down to the water, except for the Packera Aurea. If anyone wants to get out there on a nice day, feel free and let Stacey know. Phil said there's a lot of English Ivy and Euonymus there, as well as Day Lilies and Liriope to remove. Stacey has the trash bags to fill.

6. New Business

- a. Small plugs are available from Allison Milligan. Stacey got a lot of plugs, some of which can be used at LMB. Stacey will send something out about that if anyone interested in some plugs. Stacey listed what's available: Iris Crestata, Blue-eyed grass, Claire Grace Monarda, and Agastache. Stacey will send us a full list of what's available in her email.
- b. Providence Center plants: Stacey will be ordering for some people who wanted plants. She will send us an updated availability list. The \$7 six-inch pots were gorgeous.
- c. Stacey signed up CCC to have a table at the Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 1st. Volunteers are needed to make pots from newspaper ahead of time. Stacey ordered 150 plugs of Butterfly Weed (Asclepias Tuberosa). Providence Center is growing them for us. Marcia has a tool to use too. Larry and Jeanne will bring the newspaper to next CCC meeting to hand out to volunteers. Betsy suggested to add the Strawberry Festival to the list of events on the CCC website.
- d. Business cards and stickers: Stacey asked Ally to order another batch and make the font darker and a matte finish. Phil will order another pack of stickers.
- e. Birthday fundraiser results: Stacey finished at \$450 from her Facebook Birthday appeal (her goal was \$500). She said it's super easy to do.
- f. The big tree that came down at LMB: Brad used his chainsaw cut a few rings. Stacey thought we could use them on the property in groups along the trails as cut "steppingstones".
- g. Stacey noted her appreciation to Bill S, who hosts all Cape websites on Word Press, for rescuing our website from spam hackers.
- h. Free perennials from Re-Pollinate Anne Arundel: Sam Droege runs the non-profit Bee Lab in Bowie. Jeanne and Bill R picked up 276 plants to be planted this Spring. A couple weeks ago, Bill went out there to cold stratify seeds and put them in baggies with wet sand. They are in a

refrigerator experiencing cold. Sam gets pallet loads of seed mixtures. Bill said they filled a couple hundred of these black trays. This Saturday, March 23rd, they'll put the seeds in those trays to grow the plants. This summer, they need help from organizations like Elementary schools, Master Gardeners, etc. to go out and transfer the seeds from the trays to pots to get free plants. That way, we are guaranteed to get the plants for free in the Fall. This is a county wide organization. We would have to help several Saturdays in the summer. Stacey will share our email addresses with their group, and we can decide if and when we want to help.

- i. Stacey thanked those who volunteered to pick up the plants from Allison Milligan's house.
- j. Ally described her Cape St Claire 2nd grade class project on invasive plants. Ally taught the students how to identify various invasive plants. Her students wrote a letter about it to the school principal. With Stacey's help, Ally and her Green Team applied for a Unity Gardens Grant.
- k. Andrea and Adam expressed their intent to become CCC members. Stacey described to them the history of CCC.
- l. There was an interesting booth at the Watershed Steward conference. Todd Montgomery started Bee-Safe Mosquito Control. They don't use using pesticides, but instead rely on a fungus and hormone derivative in pots with a tray to trap mosquitoes and keep them from escaping. The details haven't been defined yet, but the plan is to have Todd demonstrate the technology at a Cape residence to a small group in the hopes of possibly getting Capers to use "Bee Safe" as an alternative to contractor yard spraying for mosquito control. Stacey said Doug Tallamy has a home-grown thing too. Brad will email the CCC board about this.

Adjourned 8:35pm.