

Cape Conservation Corps Board Meeting Minutes on 06/17/2024

In attendance:

Board members:

Alison Sayres, Brad Knopf, Jeanne Klinger, Jennifer Connor, Larry Jennings, Marcia Dudley, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger, Betsy Jackson, Tonya Powell

Guests:

Cathy Gazzo
Christina Fowler

Call to order: 7:04 p.m.

1. The May CCC meeting minutes were approved.
2. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
 - i. General Fund: \$24,994
 - ii. Grants Fund: \$0
 - b. Wells Fargo money came in for volunteering
 - c. CBT grant – we still need to send in the signed agreement for the grant money that was approved for \$3,400.
 - d. CCC website: posted Larry's 5/24 article on the website and it can be sent to The Caper. Phil made some edits to make it easier to read.
3. Stacey attended the most recent CSCIA BOG meeting. Her summary:
 - a. They are definitely putting in a crosswalk across Cape St. Clare Road at Woodland Circle.
 - b. Cape Vibes this upcoming Sunday is cancelled. Hopefully it is worked out by the next one that CCC was to benefit from – believed to be September 15, 2024.
 - c. Town manager asked for photos and invoices for trees for VMPs that the Board wants to close out. Phil has all of the receipts and Stacey believes she has many as well.
 - d. Zoning changes in the County – Lake Claire will remain marine/open space, Deep Creek will be 100% marine with the understanding that the current open space will not be developed as marine as there really is no space. County wants to add commercial zoning at Bay Dale and Ferguson Road. There is still time to comment on that.
 - e. BOG is working with Ellen Prager and another gentleman to get grants that will keep track of tide heights over time. Hoping to have it at 2-3 sites.
 - f. Had site visits at sites 1 and 2 with Fish and Wildlife Services. Looking to obtain more grant money. The F&W representative was from Georgia and was educated on the work that had been done. They seemed to be impressed with the progress so far. Demonstrated that real progress has been made with restoration at Main Beach and Lake Claire over the last few years. Sand is accreting at Lake Clare by the reef balls and tree balls but not up on shore as hoped.
 - g. CSCIA is going to try to do the Taylor Swift movie on the beach.
 - h. Fourth of July parade – CCC not participating.
 - i. Cape cleanup was this past weekend – they only had 2 dumpsters and once they were full they were gone.
 - j. Dredge of Little Magothy is still pending with a lot of moving parts. Hoping to get sand summer/fall 2025. Trying to get the sand put at the water's edge at Main Beach and Lake Claire.

4. Committee Reports:

- a. For Weed Warriors this week, going to cancel Wednesday night because of the heat. It will be rescheduled to 8:30-10:30 am. It will be at Serene Ravine this week. Stacey is on vacation the following week and so evening will be cancelled again and it will only be in the morning.
- b. Big Trees: Nothing new to update
- c. Garden Advisory slowing down a bit but there are still a few designs in the works.
- d. Grants Committee: Site visit referenced above and CBT grant awarded for \$3,116.
- e. Corporate Sponsors. No updates

5. Old Business:

- a. Plant sale – Stacey is estimating \$20,000 in plants for the plant sale not including shrubs.
- b. Larry wrote an article for the August/September double issue of The Caper. Recommended planting many items in the fall as the best time for these things to plant.
- c. Rebecca Sawyer update: hoping to have the boxes sanded and painted this week. Hoping the doors will be done in the next 2 weeks. Website should be done by the end of June. Stacey placed an order for the plants that will go on the top of the references boxes that Rebecca is building. Marcia will keep them at her house and keep them watered until they are installed.
- d. June 4, 2024, was the Habitat Hero tour. Saw great yards including a variety of bird species that are attracted. George Maurer who has the varied habitat yard will be the November speaker. We made a \$150 donation to MATTS for Brendan Curran's turtle organization.
- e. Phil asked Fish and Wildlife to send bird speakers our way for future speaking events.
- f. Brad indicated the oyster nursery project is full speed ahead with plenty of volunteers. Everyone is in the process of taking their oysters to the nursery. Oyster Restoration Partnership messed up the allocated funding and so money will not be going out as anticipated. They hope to recover funding by next year.
- g. Stacey still looking for bios to be submitted. Brad and Phil have turned in bios. It should include as much personal information to choose to share. A short paragraph – 5 or 6 sentences.
- h. Phil and Stacey went to the senior awards presentation on May 30 and gave the CCC scholarship and bag of items. Ella received our \$1,000 award as well as a separate \$2,000 award. Phil sent the first \$500 check to Gettysburg College where Ella is going.
- i. Strawberry Festival – we gave away 150 milkweed orange butterfly weed plants. A Broadneck student made the posters that were displayed providing information on milkweed and monarch butterflies. Marcia suggested that we have a handout on our plants like Goshen Farm did with upcoming dates like they had on their strawberry plants that they handed out. We could do the same advertising the plant sale. We did not need as much potting soil as we had.
- j. Cape Vibes cancelled
- k. The insurance policy has been paid for and is in force.
- l. Harbor School visited last week – they saw Main Beach and the Oyster Reef. All of the students had a really good time and enjoyed the oyster farm in particular. Beau had them do a small cleanup at the beach. The teachers indicated that they wanted to send the information to other teachers that they thought would enjoy doing the same program.
- m. November speaker will be George Maurer.
- n. Plant sale:
 - i. Stacey started reaching out to experts and folks with the various tables. Chris Pax has the event on her calendar and is coming. She is a native landscape designer and lives in the

community. She will help answer questions for people. Alison Milligan will be out of town. Stacey has reached out to others that she hopes will be in attendance. Ginger Woolridge said she will be there. She has a book “Essentials of Native Trees.” She helps educate people as an expert and has her book for sale. She is also a founder of the Save our Trees group and will have information on hand for that organization.

- ii. Orders are in at Northcreek for \$5,500, \$15,000 for Cavano’s and Providence Center. Edward Goodman is working on getting us shrubs as he did in the past. We will obtain shrubs for the sale, but also to plant with grant money. Likely not going to get shrubs from Alison Milligan for the sale but can get some from her in October. Providence Center has the bulk of our order. Stacey will go back to Babikow to see if they have the items Providence Center does not have.
- iii. Plant stakes worked well last year as well as the corral for tallying plants inside the area. No expert tables were set up last year because of the Tropical Storm, but this year, the tables will line the front so that people can interact with the experts while waiting in line. We need to gather volunteers to help carry plants to cars. Plant sale is September 21, 2024, 9 am – 1 pm. Friday is delivery and plant sorting. Need to remind customers to bring wagons. Need to improve on signage. Parking directional signs would be helpful.

6. New Business:

- a. Caper Article is written and will be submitted
- b. Want to get back to work on a tri-fold brochure. Ali is trying to decide how much to put in it without being too much. Stacey will gather pictures to include.
- c. Path behind the shopping center: Phil said he was previously approached to see if CCC could do anything to help with it. At the time, we said it was too big for us to address. Phil suggested that we begin to revisit it and see if there is something we can do including pursuing grant money. There is a lot of bamboo and ivy. Town manager suggested that we approach large landscaping companies and get estimates of the scope of the work as well as what a budget for that would be. Watershed Stewards Association has a list of companies that do this type of work: controlling erosion and grading it to make it more stable and passable. It needs to be a hardscaping company for this project. The Town Manager indicated that the BOG will be behind this project if CCC can get the information gathering started. Betsy asked if it was appropriate for CCC to be a part of a hardscaping project and it was discussed that we support water runoff projects plus removing the existing invasive plants. Since CSCIA is not a nonprofit, they cannot apply for grants that CCC can apply for. Once we get closer, we would need a detailed plan and work with CSCIA and grant money. Phil will take the lead on behalf of CCC.

7. Other remarks:

- a. Jen asked if anyone has information on bat boxes please share it. Folks indicated that they don’t really seem to work.
- b. Phil – about 10 days ago he was invited by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation on a 2 hour discovery tour on a power boat. He learned even more than he already knew about the Bay. Went to Tolly Point channel marker that has an oyster reef. They dredged some oysters and talked about the oysters. Then went to Oyster Bay. Back when there were too many oysters, instead of putting them in the market and having prices lowered, they would keep them at Oyster Bay until the market demanded more. Phil is trying to get them to give CCC a similar tour.

Adjourned 8:23 p.m.