

## Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 07/15/2024

### In attendance:

#### Board members:

Alison Sayres, Betsy Jackson, Brad Knopf, Christie Fowler, Karen Minor, Larry Jennings, Marcia Dudley, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger

### Call to order: 7:04pm.

The June CCC meeting minutes that Jennifer provided were approved.

### Treasurer's report:

- a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
    - i. General Fund: \$25,122
    - ii. Grants Fund: \$0
  - b. CCC website: Phil continues to keep up with the website, such as posting Weed Warrior dates and that the Cape Vibes event was cancelled. He asked for the list of plants for the Native Plant Sale.
2. Stacey attended the most recent CSCIA BOG meeting. Her summary:
- a. Cape St Claire is 75 years old as of June 30th.
  - b. For the crosswalk at Woodland Circle, the signage is still pending.
  - c. They are gathering estimates for a new fence along the back of the Clubhouse fields.
  - d. Zoning changes were discussed.
  - e. Update on the Chesapeake National Park: Representative John Sarbanes introduced the bill on his end and Senator Chris Van Hollen testified on the bill on his side.
  - f. The Cape did not get approved for mosquito spraying this year before the slots filled up.
  - g. A Main Beach movie night is in the plan, but they are trying to figure out when, since it's been so hot lately.
  - h. Plans for the dredge in 2025 are still a work in progress. Most of the dredged sand will go to Site 1 and possibly some in Site 2, at the saltwater marsh at the mouth of Lake Claire. The County would pay for the dredging.
  - i. The July BOG quarterly meeting is next Tuesday July 23rd at 7:30pm. Biohabitats will do a presentation on where we are so far.
  - j. We got the \$75K grant and are waiting to hear about the other \$75K, which would be used for site analysis and technical planning. The hope is to group all 4 sites, except Deep Creek, in one permit.
  - k. Cape Vibes events will not include providing food and benefitting an organization, but instead, they will still have music on the beach. The first Cape Vibes event will be on Saturday, July 21st from 4-8pm at Main Beach. The next event will be in September.
3. Committee Reports:
- a. Weed Warriors continues despite the summer heat and humidity. We thank the volunteers who come out regularly, week after week, including Jeanne, Marcia, Betsy, Stacey, and Bill. Weekly weeding is regularly done in morning and afternoon sessions. Last week, the morning crew were Marcia and Jason, followed by the afternoon crew of Stacey and her coworker, Betsy, and David. Marcia said that Wednesday morning, she found blackberry shrubs at Little Magothy Beach (LMB), and she asked if she could cut the shrubs back. Stacey said yes. She also noticed Oriental Bittersweet where the big tree fell. Next Wednesday, Weed Warriors will be at LMB. Stacey reported that she observed a native vine, yellow passionflower, at LMB. Stacey advised that she will not be there next Wednesday, so she only did a Sign Up for the morning.
  - b. Big Trees: No updates.

- c. Garden Advisory: Alison Milligan wanted to see Lauren Decker's project from last year, who planted her purchases from the Native Plant Sale, and her plants are all fully mature now. She put down 4-5 layers of cardboard, 5" of dead leaves, with wood chips on top. Marcia suggested that perhaps we could use a similar approach along the fence at Serene Ravine (SR) where the Bush Killer is thriving. Stacey agreed. Another success: Katie Davis sent photos of the rain garden that Larry did for her. Larry reported that he is doing something similar in a yard in Atlantis. Christie said that she has given out Larry's name to people in her community.
- d. Grants Committee: Stacey reported that they got the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) grant, but they didn't receive the check yet. Stacey reached out to Whitney from CBT to schedule a call to discuss the next steps she needs to do.
- e. Habitat Heroes (HH): We need to pick a new HH winner. Stacey is thinking Jamie on Greenway off Mount Alban Dr. She's been creating pathways and planting like crazy, including tons of milkweed. She and her family have come out to help with CCC planting events and they have participated in Weed Warriors. Marcia said she would like to take a look around CSC. Stacey asked everyone to put this on their radar to think of other candidates.
- f. Update from Rebecca Sawyer: The construction the Little Libraries is almost finished. She sent a photo of the doors showing the Plexiglas and doorknobs. They are almost done. Rebecca is also working on the website. Everything is moving along. Marcia reported that the sedum she is babysitting is growing like crazy. The sedum will be used on the living roofs.
- g. Corporate Sponsors. No updates.

#### 4. Old Business:

- a. Stacey reminded the Board that she has four bios so far, from Betsy, Marcia, Phil, and Brad.
- b. The path that runs from Blue Ridge Place to the community pool is eroding. The path is in very bad shape. The erosion has gotten worse since Ryan initially contacted Phil about it. Bamboo grows at the bottom of the path and English Ivy at the top. Phil contacted a few landscaping companies listed on the WSA website. Childs Landscaping gave Phil a proposal for \$48K and the work would start in Spring 2026. Childs' past landscaping project photos on similar projects look great. Phil is also talking to Kevin Ridgley (contact from WSA website). Phil sent him photos and will meet him next week out at the site. Another contractor in Crofton (contact from WSA website) told Phil that he only does designs, but he sent Phil recommendations for contractors. Brad said Ecoasis does erosion control work. Phil contacted those companies. Phil is hoping to acquire at least three bids. We would need a grant to fund this erosion control project. The guy Phil talked to has plans that show the exact area where the Critical Area starts. Luckily, the site is outside of the areas of concern. We may or may not need a permit, depending on the square footage of the project, which is estimated to be about five thousand square feet. Stacey complimented Phil on the good progress. Marcia asked about in terms of neighbors, we would want to forestall any contention with them. Phil noted that this is Cape Property, and that the work would be 3-4 ft from neighbor fences, although he said we should talk to the neighbor at Blue Ridge Place on the left side of the path. We need to divert street water there and we may need to involve that homeowner's property. In any case, a plan should be in place before approaching any neighbors.
- c. Upcoming events: Weed Warriors and Wednesday is the Broadneck Grill Fundraiser from 5-9pm.
- d. Native Plant Sale: Edwin Goodman will sell us the shrubs. All in, we are at \$20K. Stacey added 24 new species that we haven't had before. We discussed increasing the prices slightly. Stacey handed out a write-up on the Plant Sale. We will get deliveries on Friday early morning from 7-9am. As we have done every year, we will help unload the plants, and then sort. We agreed on using the ground

more and using tall stakes and tables for the flats. We could probably use the Strawberry Festival tables, and Karen will lend her chairs. Phil received a donation of a big canopy that we can use. We will continue set-up at 7am on Saturday. We have 15 new plants that we'll need signs for. We would give the info that we look up, with photos, in a Word doc that Stacey will send to Jill Fairly, who did it last year. Betsy, Karen, Marcia volunteered to look up information about the new plants. For the plugs, Jeanne K will write the names on the tags. Katherine will create plant lists to look up alphabetically and by growing conditions. Stacey asked everyone to start gathering boxes and any plant trays they might have.

5. New Business:

- a. Oyster Program: Brad shared the disturbing news that ORP has funding issues and that we might receive only 30% of what we had last year. Brad has many growers willing to do this Marylanders Grow Oysters project, but they may lose interest. Tommy Price, the ORP contact, has said there should be a way to purchase additional bags. Brad is talking to Paul Spadaro at MRA to help fund it and CBT. Brad doesn't know what it will cost. If push comes to shove, Brad may ask CCC to contribute towards it. Brad always asks for the early slot: September. The other caveat is that they will be having pickup places. Last year, we got a dud batch. Betsy voiced her worry that the west coast shell might be infected. Brad agreed. Brad is disturbed about this, and he doesn't want people to lose interest. He doesn't want those people to have to pay. Paul has connections with CBF. He's working his end. Brad was giving us a heads up if he comes to CCC for financial help on covering the cost of additional bags. Brad sent an email about it. Horn Point is the best spatting facility. Brad hates to lose the momentum with the growers. Covid hit the interest. Brad will keep us posted.
- b. Renaissance Festival Fundraiser: Last year, we were invited to man the booth that sells beer and sodas and share in the tips, and they contacted Phil again. Cathy Haggerty signed up last year and worked the booth the whole day. It's a lot of fun and she loved it and earned a lot of tips on CCC's behalf in the amount of a couple hundred dollars. If interested, the more who sign up, we would get the entirety of the tips on that day. It will be on the two days of the weekend of Sept 14<sup>th</sup>. Phil sent out the link to the Sign-Up Genius.
- c. Larry will be buying plants for the Goshen Pollinator Garden. He will see if Goshen wants to kick in. He wants to use 1/2 of the money he collected from garden advisory donations.

6. Other remarks:

- a. Phil brought up the bamboo at Deep Creek that were brought up at the end of the Yacht Club meeting. To work on its removal would require a VMP. Beau said CCC will do a VMP to get the bamboo out of there. Beau is concerned non-yacht club trailers that are parking there. Multiple organizations are involved on this issue. Phil asked what it would involve from our end. Stacey said basically manual labor, in that we could get it cut down and spread multiple loads of wood chips. The sailboat trailers could be put on top of the wood chips. Stacey will get on that. Phil said the trailers move out by July 1st and move back around Labor Day.
- b. Stacey copied us on email blast from WSA on a class project. Phil posted that in the CCC website news. They are looking for another yard to be the site of the class project. Nothing says we as CCC board members can't apply too. She asked that we look to see if we meet the criteria or if we know other properties. Stacey has a few people that are interested.
- c. Stacey is trying to gather some artwork to auction off. She has received several submissions: Andrea Hamilton, who does art that is beach oriented, gave Stacey three pieces. Sandy is doing a stained-glass picture. There's a guy, Chris Elkins, who also would like to make bowls out of felled

trees. He said he would make us 5 bowls. Chris Krissoff will donate some photos. The auctioning off would happen in November at the speaker event. Even without an En Plein Air event, we will have a good array of things by November to auction off.

Adjourned 8:32.