

## Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 10/21/2024

### In attendance:

#### Board members:

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

#### Guests:

Cathy Gazzo, Gretchen Quast, John Runyon, Robert Corletta,

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

1. The September CCC meeting minutes were approved as amended pending corrections.
2. Treasurer's report:
  - a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
    - i. General Fund: \$30,948
    - ii. Grants Fund: \$0
  - b. Phil reported that we bought \$21K in plants and had 26K in sales. Sales taxes in the amount of \$1,500 are due. The Square and Pay Pal fees were a little over \$400. The credit card rewards mostly covered the fees. Our profit is \$3,700 (before Beau's project) that we can use for future projects.
  - c. We received \$222 from Broadneck Grill this time from their fundraiser night.
  - d. CCC website: Phil is keeping up on the CCC website, including posting Stacey's blog and accompanying photos. Phil posted the information about the upcoming speaker event.
3. Committee Reports:
  - a. Weed Warriors: Button bushes will be planted at Serene Ravine and then we will continue the next week at Little Magothy Beach (LMB).
  - b. Big Trees: Robert is willing to continue with Big Trees if anyone is interested in assisting. Brad got one email about a big tree. As part of helping to resurrect Big Trees, Robert will write an article and get it to Stacey by November 12<sup>th</sup>. The article will go in the December/January Caper article. Robert said we should try to have this culminate in a Fall tree planting in the community, maybe with the WSA next Fall. We could plant trees on individual properties. Robert suggested one angle to try: to have a program to encourage people who remove large trees to plant a new shade tree. Stacey suggested partnering with Christie of Richard's Tree Service, and possibly offering a Garden Advisory visit. Robert is an urban forester in Washington, D.C. His organization notified residents that they can have at least one free tree that can be planted for free. Stacey said we could do this as a Fall tree planting. We could offer one tree per applicant and offer to plant it for free. Robert will throw something together and see what everyone thinks.
  - c. Garden Advisory: We are still planting at Beau Breeden's property. Jeanne, Marcia, and Bill will help Larry continue planting on Tuesday.
  - d. Grants:
    - i. Bill was able to attend the Keep Maryland Beautiful webinar, run by the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT). The project application is very extensive and expensive. Bill will send Stacey the links that CBT shared. Phil suggested we could use the CBT \$5K grant to take care of the bamboo down on Deep Creek. The deadline is Nov 14<sup>th</sup>. They award the grant on March 20<sup>th</sup>, and the money must be spent within one year.

- ii. Maryland Charity Campaign: Phil said employees of the State put up a hold on their paycheck for charity. They select a charity to support. Phil got an email about two hundred employees in Baltimore. We can try to convince them to name CCC as the beneficiary. Betsy said MDOT hosts fairs. They have free giveaways at the fair. The list of prospective beneficiaries is huge. Phil said that last year, we received \$60 from this, just from being on the list. Phil will sign up for it and give a write-up and photos. He probably won't go to the event.
- iii. Alison and Phil are attending the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County Fundraiser training seminar for nonprofits. An organization can have up to three attendees. Phil said there are only fifteen organization that are attending. The training starts Wednesday, October 23rd at 6:30 on Bestgate Rd, and is every Wednesday for five weeks.
- iv. Phil signed up for a short training at Anne Arundel County Public Library in Severna Park about grant research.
- e. Corporate Sponsors: Several renewals are up. Goodman signed up anew. Stacey and Phil approached others.
- f. Habitat Heroes: We need another Habitat Hero. If anyone has ideas, let Stacey know. Marcia suggested Broadneck High School because of their People's Garden, native plantings, and other good things they have done. We agreed that would be a good idea to recognize them. Phil also suggested recognizing Rebecca Sawyer.

#### 4. Old Business:

- a. Little Libraries: Rebecca wants to have an Open House. Stacey and she were thinking Saturday, November 16th. Serena Ravine first from 12:30-1:30, then 2-3:00 at LMB afterwards with light refreshments. This would be an opportunity to show and talk about the libraries. The only thing that won't be there is signage. The plan is to mount a sign at the bottom, below the doors.
- b. The Renaissance Festival fundraiser: Cathy couldn't go, but we received \$130 anyway.
- c. The foot path leading down to the Cape St Claire pool is deeply eroded and is a safety issue for the Cape, as it is Cape property. Phil talked with Frank this year about reviving this project. Phil contacted several contractors and got four proposals. The work will be in 2026 since we will need grant money for that. Welspryng, one of our corporate sponsors, never produced a proposal. Phil described each proposal and the corresponding cost.
  - i. Scapes: \$11,255. Leave the roots, fill in the undercut area with soil, install a six-inch drain covered with gravel, so it will be stone path.
  - ii. Walnut Hill: \$30,950. Cut off the roots of all the trees and fill in soil, gravel, wood chips.
  - iii. Childs: \$48,000. Keep roots and use them to build up steps along the way with timber steps. Bigger Stone (1/2"). Walking on gravel and timbers. Looks great. For drainage, would need to work out with the Swim Club having the water percolate on the Swim Club property.
  - iv. Boyer. \$61,600. Keep roots. Fill in undercut area with soil, then filter cloth and gravel on top, with a drain in there.

Phil already presented and gave the proposals to the BOG. The Swim Club said they might be able to contribute a bit of money for that. Frank reached out to the County, and because of that, they are expected to rebuild the curb to be taller to reduce the erosion over time. Besides this, the remediation the County is looking to do is just repairing that lip back to where it was. We all agreed that ideally, the Childs proposal seems to be the best. CCC will give the suggestion to the Cape BOG to select the Childs proposal. Jeanne noted that a path without steps would be so tempting for

kids on bikes to use and degrade the gravel. Robert asked if this would require excavation at each step. Robert expressed concern that cutting or filling over the tree roots could be detrimental to them. Betsy asked Robert if he would be willing to walk the path and give his expert opinion regarding this, based on his knowledge of trees. We all thanked Phil for his work on this.

- d. Shrubs: Alison Milligan is placing one last order of shrubs. Stacey will order Gro-Low Sumac and *Itea virginica* for the Serene Ravine around the teaching library. Let Stacey know if we want to order any shrubs before October 30th.
- e. The Speaker event by George Maurer on creating bird habitats in the back yard will be on the evening of Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. 6:30-7pm for socializing and bidding on auction items, and 7pm to begin the presentation. The event should be over by 8:30. Stacey asked we all arrive around 5:00 for set up. Several CCC members volunteered to bring some snacks for this BYOB event. We have several items to auction, including bowls that Tyler Bitner carved, Chris Krissoff's framed photo, Sandy Ourisson's stained-glass hummingbird, Andrea Hamilton's sea glass driftwood items, the canoe painting, a painting an artist is doing from one of Chris' photos, and a batik scarf. A student's mom will donate something, and Alison will reach out to Cathy about crab shells. Brad created and handed out flyers for the event.
- f. The Native Plant Sale was a success, although we were disappointed at the lower turnout, most likely attributed to the growing availability of native plants in the area. We will order less plants next year. Stacey asked if we had any other suggestions. Betsy said some shrubs, such as Oakleaf Hydrangea and Beauty Berry, went extremely fast. Jennifer noted that the things in bloom always have more appeal. We had very few in bloom this year and it's hard to know ahead of time what will be blooming. We agreed that locating the plants on the ground worked well. Betsy suggested we need to communicate better about checking out, such as telling people about the tally sheets. We agreed to have a sign about this near the checkout, and Marcia suggested having a person near the checkout area whose job is to ask people if they had their tally sheet. Marcia also suggested having our upcoming events tagged on whatever items we give out at the Strawberry festival.
- g. The tree & shrub planting at LMB on Friday and Saturday was very a great success. In all, 107 trees and shrubs were planted. It all went very well with amazing volunteers who did an excellent job in planting, we did a thorough job of watering, and we moved a brush pile. Stacey noted that on Saturday, the birds were going crazy, taking dust baths and using the brush pile. Stacey thanked everyone for showing up and doing everything. Jennifer Crews-Carey took some amazing pictures and Stacey uploaded some of them on Facebook. Most of the trees and shrubs were planted on Friday. Jeanne, Betsy, Marcia, John, and Gretchen will share the watering tasks. They discussed a schedule. John had the great idea put a "J" on the flags of the plants he watered. Each person will initial the flag of the plant they water. John said the neighbor next to the site is happy with how everything looks. Marcia suggested that some recognition is in order for the people in the surrounding properties who let us use their use water, such as a sign on the path thanking them. Stacey always randomly checks in with those neighbors to confirm that using the water is okay. Stacey reported 119 hours of work Friday and Saturday from thirty-three people.
- h. Spring ephemeral "First Flowers" boxes are an opportunity to get the first pollinators in Spring. Stacey handed out information with the specifics on the boxes. We want to emphasize natives. Stacey met with Rachel at Providence Center and told her some ideas of plants. Rachel researched what she could find. One box will have three each of each two species, totaling six plants. Stacey wants to get a pre-order together this week, with payment due at that time. Pickup date is the weekend of March 20th-22nd. Francesca of WSA will do some graphics to share on social media.

5. New Business:

- a. Mulching the paths. Wood chips at the LMB will be spreading on Saturday November 2nd at 9am. The Date for Serene Ravine is Saturday, November 9th. Hopefully, we can get scouts to help. We need wheelbarrows, rakes, and pitchforks. Stacey will send out a Sign-Up Genius for it.
- b. Stacey wants to talk to Rachel at Providence Center to grow a Goldenrod Stacey wants.
- c. The Quarterly BOG meeting is Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm. Fairwinds Marina is looking to build forty-eight townhouse units on their property and hook up to Atlantis public water and connect to sewer through Cape at the entrance to the Marina. There are no drawings yet. Beau and the BOG members have already met with Larry of Fairwinds. At Monday's meeting they introduced the issue, and it will be discussed at the Tuesday meeting. Wear your shirts.
- d. Start thinking of 2025 projects/programs/dates.

Adjourned 8:37.