

## Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 11/18/2024

### In attendance:

#### Board members:

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, George Maurer, Ginny Klocko, John Runyon

### Call to order: 7:05pm.

1. The October 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: \$34,498
    - ii. Grants Fund: \$0
  - b. Phil moved an additional five thousand dollars from the checking account to the savings account.
  - c. CCC website: Phil is keeping up on the CCC website, including posting Robert's tree article in both the Cape Loves Trees page and the blog, which uses WordPress. Phil wants to revamp the website. The most significant content is under one page, so he wants to spread out that information among several pages. He also proposed merging the content under "Donate Now" with the "Join Us" membership page. He would like to get help from Bill S to set up that page to allow recurring monthly donations in addition to the one-time donations that are enabled now. Stacey suggested adding to that page some language explaining how different amounts can fund certain CCC activities, such as "a \$25 donation will fund planting a tree", for example. This concept of stating the significance of what your money goes toward is often used by other organizations to inspire people to donate because it makes people feel better about giving. Phil noted that the Anne Arundel County fundraiser training seminar that he and Ali are attending had this same suggestion. Training is still ongoing on this class. Phil learned that CCC should have a much shorter mission statement, to be much more concise and understood in eight seconds or less. Ali and Phil still have three one-on-one sessions with their trainer. Phil said the trainer is awesome. One focus will be on improvements in presentation for fundraising and grants. Phil added that the class has provided opportunities to network, and he has gotten in touch with organizations that are similar to CCC. Phil explained to some of these contacts how Special Community Benefit Districts (SCDB) can be beneficial. Phil is planning on doing some revamping, such as changing some bylaws and incorporation documents. Phil and Ali will meet with the trainer and bring suggestions back to us. We all thanked Phil and Ali for their efforts to implement the knowledge they have gained in this class.
3. Brad attended the most recent CSCIA BOG meeting and Quarterly meeting. His summary:
  - a. At least seventy people attended the BOG meeting, most likely to hear more about the Fairwinds Marina development proposal, as the discussion took over the whole meeting. There were lots of questions. No formal plans or permits have been submitted yet. The bottom line is that something is going to happen. The prevailing proposal is for Fairwinds Marina to build 30-50 townhomes on their property. Fairwinds is not zoned for permanent residences, so they would need textual amendment sponsor and approval by the County Council and County Executive. Brad noted that the biggest concerns were traffic, Cape amenity incursion, and sight lines. Brad added that a significant concern is safety, such as walking on the roads and the ability for ambulances to get through. A

resident volunteered to organize a Safety committee. The ecological impact of the Fairwinds project was also brought up.

- b. A group named the Surfriders is organizing a beach cleanup on Saturday Jan 11<sup>th</sup> at Main Beach.
- c. Property owners on Lake Claire Drive have applied to build within the setbacks. The BOG gave their approval, but it's under review by the County, who would have a larger say.
- d. On Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm, the Annual Tree Lighting event will be at the Cape St. Claire gatehouse. Santa will be touring as usual this year in the fire truck.
- e. The next Broadneck Council of Communities (BCC) meeting is coming up. The Bay Bridge plan will be discussed. The state is considering replacing both spans in phases with new, wider spans. Phil noted that they are looking at various things such as the number of lanes. The plan will have a nine-year timeline and will be designed to handle increased traffic flow.
- f. The first \$75K grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has been approved and the second \$75K grant was approved. Hopefully those grants will pave the way towards getting the grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT).

#### 4. Committee Reports:

- a. Weed Warriors are done for the year, but there may be some opportunities for gathering during the year to remove English Ivy.
- b. Big Trees: Robert wrote a nice article for the December/January Caper. He gave a sneak peak of the free trees.
- c. Garden Advisory: Larry just got a new job for a property in Bowie. The new customer came through the Garden Advisor page on the CCC website. Larry also reported that three more sessions will be needed to complete planting at Beau's property.
- d. Grants: No updates.
- e. Corporate Sponsors: Most of our existing corporate sponsors renewed for this year. We have no new sponsors.
- f. Habitat Heroes: We agreed that Broadneck High School will be our new Habitat Hero because of their People's Garden, native plantings, and other good things they have done. Stacey will give Marcia the contact information for Alison Davis.

#### 5. Old Business:

- a. Little Libraries: The learning libraries are complete and up and running. The open house was on Saturday at the Serene Ravine. Stacey, Brad, Bill, Rebecca, Rebecca's minister, and some girl scouts attended. They followed up with a visit to Little Magothy Beach (LMB), joined by Tonya and Rebecca's grandparents. Rebecca did a great job in stocking the libraries. She will go through the boxes of books and will sort out some that will work. Tonya will be the caretaker of the books and keep the library stocked with art supplies and books as they get depleted. Jeanne asked about field guides. We can replenish them gradually as needed. Stacey has the stickers which identify which books to take and which books to leave in the libraries. Rebecca turned in her receipts to Stacey. We agreed to pay for the materials, food on installation days, and the cost of the two signs. A donor gave us \$200, the Cape BOG is willing to chip in \$300, so we all agreed that CCC would cover the rest. CCC will take over maintenance of the libraries, including the living roofs. Brad and Stacey talked about putting bagged mulch under the library at the Serene Ravine. Betsy volunteered to spread some bags of shredded mulch that she had, and Cathy Gazzo will also donate some bags of mulch. Betsy will pick up the bags from Cathy.
- b. For the renovations of the foot path leading down to the shopping center, Phil presented the landscaping contractor proposals to the BOG and gave them CCC's recommendation. Phil is

awaiting feedback from the town manager, Frank Tewey, on their selection before pursuing processing of the grant application.

- c. The speaker event by George Maurer on creating bird habitats in the back yard was very successful. We had a great turnout, and everyone enjoyed George's presentation. Ellen Prager and Dave Jones expressed interest in doing a speaker event in the future.
- d. Orders for Spring ephemeral "First Flowers" boxes are coming in. Stacey increased the order based on what has sold so far. If we don't get orders from people, CCC can plant them. She asked for 60 of the Virginia Bluebells. There are still boxes available. Pickup will be the weekend of March 20th-22nd.
- e. Mulching of the paths at both the Serene Ravine and the LMB with wood chips is complete and went very quickly because of the good turnout of volunteers. Marcia would like to recognize the Habitat for Humanity group in a sign or write-up because of the help they provided to spread wood chips on the paths. We all agreed to donate \$500 to Habitat for Humanity. Bill suggested inviting one of them to our meetings.
- f. The watering crew for the newly planted trees & shrubs at LMB, namely Marcia, Jeanne, John, Betsy, and Gretchen Corletta, have done a great job so far. It's been a lot of work. They agreed that watering can be cut down to once a week after next week. We all thanked them for their diligence.

#### 6. New Business:

- a. George Maurer described his three ideas for new posts on the CCC website:
  - i. Backyard bird landscape (content from his speaker event presentation): The web version would describe how to create a birdscape and give details on what plants take what conditions, and group the plants by the layer of the woodland landscape they belong in. He noted that different birds and animals evolve to seek food from certain plants. Stacey said we could tie in the recommended plants to our Native Plant Sale. George did his thesis about habitat structures, and his goal is to provide people with the information they would need to go out and implement these ideas. A satellite view of George's yard showing the network of trees around his property would illustrate how to take into account the trees and shrubs of neighboring properties. Larry commented on how low-maintenance George's birdscape is.
  - ii. Controlling invasive vines: George suggested adding to the CCC website a "dirty dozen" page of the worst invasives, and how to get rid of them. Larry said the Maryland Department of Agriculture should be rolling out a new list soon and moving some plants into the Prohibited (for sale) list. George is willing to work with Phil to create a post. Phil suggested the post should include photos of the invasive plants. Stacey asked George to compile the information and submit it to her, and then Phil and Bill S could implement it. Stacey added that we could use this as a starting point for a nice Caper article in 2025.
  - iii. Controlling the tiger mosquito: George envisions an article or web page that provides some background on this species and focuses on prevention, such as getting rid of standing water. He noted that tiger mosquitoes don't breed in wetlands. The Maryland Department of Agriculture admitted their spray program is not effective on tiger mosquitoes. The spray is a nonspecific pesticide that will kill any insect, and it stays suspended in the air for a time. Spraying is usually done at night when the tiger mosquito is not active. George is happy to put something together, and he requested that CCC ask the BOG to publish a quarter-page about how to prevent mosquitoes such as by eliminating standing water. Ideally, this information should be in every Caper article during the summer months. Jeanne reminded us

- that we have some Water Saver cartoons out this. Stacey said she would love for George to pursue these suggestions and that CCC will collaborate
- b. Stacey thanked everyone for all their contributions of effort, time, and work for CCC this year. Stacey printed out and distributed CCC's accomplishments in 2024 and a tentative list for 2025. She asked us to start thinking about what we want to do in the coming year and if there any projects we want to tackle.
  - c. Phil attends the Youth Sailing meetings, so he can be a go between with them regarding the area where the boats will be stored at Deep Creek.
  - d. Traditionally, the December meeting is a festive meeting. It will be on Monday, December 16th. We'll have a little party after the meeting. Treats such as eggnog are welcome.
  - e. Stacey reminded everyone about submitting their Bios to her.
  - f. Betsy brought up year-end giving. Some organizations do double a push for end-of-year donations. Stacey always posts year-end reminders on Facebook and in her email blasts. CCC collects from the board for memberships in January. Phil noted that at the fundraising training Ali and he are going to, the latest topic was year-end giving. In the class, they mentioned that board members should give to the organization amounts at least as large as the top three donations of the year. For years, Stacey has contributed to CCC through her paycheck and Wells Fargo matches it. Wells Fargo gives additional money as the volunteer hours reach different amounts.
  - g. Brad raised the question as to whether CCC should have a stance on the Fairwinds issue. We agreed to let the Magothy River Association (MRA) take on the battle. On that note, Stacey encouraged everyone to attend the quarterly meetings and voice their individual opinions on issues that arise for the community.

Adjourned 8:37.