

Cape Conservation Corps Board Meeting Minutes December 16, 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:

Carol Collison, Cathy Gazzo, Christie Fowler, John Runyon, Rob Corletta

Call to order: 7:07pm.

1. The November CCC meeting minutes were approved as amended.
2. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
 - i. General Fund: \$38,062
 - ii. Grants Fund: \$0
 - b. Fundraising:
 - i. Giving Tuesday yielded \$405 in donations.
 - ii. Phil used \$600 of CCC funds to print a thousand color copies of the letter about CCC's mission and projects. Brad printed off additional letters as well. Jeanne, Jennifer, Phil, Betsy, Brad, Cathy, and Marcia volunteered and distributed the letters throughout the community. Phil reported that a few new names were added to the donation list, but so far, we only received a disappointing \$975 in donations. We have a few weeks before the new year, so hopefully some more people in the community will donate. Betsy pointed out that although the donations did not meet our expectations, the letter accomplished spreading the word about CCC and the many the projects that have been accomplished, so it's worth the effort, and that many people wait until the last of the year to do their annual giving. Stacey emphasized that using the Facebook birthday fundraiser every year on her birthday consistently results in receiving a couple hundred dollars in CCC donations from her Facebook friends.
 - c. CCC website: Phil is keeping up on the CCC website. Phil plans on getting in touch with Bill S regarding changes to the website.
3. Stacey attended the most recent CSCIA BOG meeting. Her summary:
 - a. The BOG reimbursed CCC \$300 for Rebecca's Little Libraries project.
 - b. There is a Broadneck High School (BHS) cleanup on Saturday, January 11th. CSCIA is handing it.
 - c. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed the Chesapeake National Recreation Act. This is part of many steps towards realizing the establishment of a Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA).
 - d. The cost of printing the Caper is increasing. Mary Lamb suggested limiting articles to a half page. Stacey reminded Mary that CCC is willing to pay extra for a full page or multiple pages in the Caper.
 - e. On Thursday, December 19th, the Broadneck Council of Communities (BCC) meeting will be held at the Clubhouse. Some elected state officials will be present to talk about the new Bay Bridge spans

and discuss the number of lanes on each. Construction of the new bridge is projected to start in the 2030s and take about 10 years.

- f. The BOG and the Little Magothy River Association are still on track for dredging and getting the sand for the Main Beach, and maybe also for the Lake Claire site to establish habitat and replenish the shoreline.
- g. The Grants committee is looking to get Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the design of the other five sites in Cape St Claire. Biohabitats has submitted one bid for the design work, and two more bids were just received today. Once all bids have been reviewed, the committee will meet with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and CSCIA board to select a bid.
- h. The Alliance also submitted a grant to Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) for \$300K for Little Magothy Beach (LMB) park, which is under the umbrella of the five areas.
- i. The County fixed the curb at the top of the path that leads down to the shopping center. We can go and see if it is handling heavy rain. Robert said it doesn't look that substantial. At the BOG meeting, Stacey asked about the path itself. The BOG hasn't discussed it yet.
- j. The BOG is waiting on an estimate from Richard's Tree Care on clearing the bamboo at Deep Creek.
- k. At the November BOG meeting, about sixty people showed up for the discussion about the Fairwinds Marina development proposal. The feedback that town manager Frank Tewey has received thus far has been overwhelmingly against building the townhouses.

4. Committee Reports:

- a. Weed Warriors: No updates.
- b. Big Trees: Robert asked about a Fall planting next year. Stacey wants to focus on supplying trees for individual homeowner properties. We will advertise on social media and emails. We should decide how many trees we want to provide. CCC would offer a free tree if they lost a tree. Betsy volunteered to work with Robert to come up with some guidelines. Betsy informed Phil that she noticed the tree article appears twice on one page of the CCC website.
- c. Garden Advisory: Bill and Larry worked on planting at Beau's property last Thursday. Bill (and maybe Jeanne) will help Larry finish planting the 25 remaining plants left.
- d. Grants: See above under Stacey's BOG report.
- e. Corporate Sponsors: Most corporate sponsors have renewed. Stacey will check on Goodman's (the source for trees for plant sale). Someone should volunteer to contact TNT for their renewal.
- f. Habitat Heroes: At the November meeting, we approved Marcia's nomination of BHS as our next Habitat Hero winner. Alison Davis sent Stacey a writeup on the programs and projects BHS has done so far and the plans for future projects. Stacey will spotlight BHS in the February Caper article. Jamie Wilhelm, a counselor at BHS and our last Habitat Hero winner, will give BHS the sign. Stacey always takes a photo of the winner with the sign and posts it. Stacey might choose another Habitat Hero winner, although she doesn't have anyone in mind yet.

5. Old Business:

- a. Rebecca Sawyer's Learning Libraries project is done. Tonya volunteered to be responsible for checking the libraries and restocking them with books and materials as needed. She plans to check the libraries weekly. Stacey has written in the journals, and she noticed some kids have written a few things. Stacey encouraged everyone to go down and journal some entries. Christie shared her

idea to print some master lists of birds that kids could check off as they spot them (like a scavenger hunt).

- b. The Spring ephemeral “First Flowers” boxes sold extremely well. Stacey shut down ordering on it and will wait until January. She is still waiting to confirm with Rachel from Providence Center that all of that material will be available.
- c. We discussed Stacey’s tentative list of CCC projects for 2025:
 - i. We decided not to do the Invasive Plant Swap this year in favor of Spring ephemerals and free trees.
 - ii. Late January/early February: Ivy Removal with the help of Save Our Trees people or do it ourselves.
 - iii. March:
 - o LMB cleanup on a weekend with good weather.
 - o Speaker event on a weeknight in March. Ellen Prager and Dave Jones expressed a strong interest in being the next speakers. They are dynamic and would be great. We all agreed on them. We will come up with a specific date.
 - o April 20-22 “First Flowers” Spring ephemerals pickup. Jeanne volunteered her driveway for the pickup.
 - iv. April:
 - o Planting in March or April of Spring ephemerals from Providence Center and Barry Glick of Sunshine Farms. Barry provided skunk cabbage for the Serene Ravine last time. Stacey put together a list of plants. She wants to add some Spring Beauty and Jack-in-the-Pulpit from him to plant at LMB and probably at the Serene Ravine.
 - o Brad reported that Project Clean Stream will be the morning of Saturday, April 5th.
 - o Weed Warriors will start April 2nd. We all agreed to hold the Weed Warriors kickoff on the evening of Wednesday, April 9th. Betsy suggested we think of a way to make that event more successful. We agreed that the name is off-putting and not drawing people, and that “a volunteer open house” would be a better title. Ally suggested calling it a volunteer information session. Brad gets calls from students to come visit the oyster cages. Betsy likes the idea of broadening it. Talk about all the things we do and try to get people to sign up the Weed Warriors. Jeanne asked about getting the word to more. Stacey said she's also telling Alison Davis, Habitat for Humanity people, and the National Honor Society. Jeanne said the kids all need volunteer hours. She also suggested middle schools too. Jeanne can reach out to the middle school. Brad said we need to get a broad-based document. Christie said Roy Benner at Goshen coordinated with work projects for years. He might be able to give us some info about that. Maybe he can share some contacts with us. It was suggested that to put a QR code in the Capers about student volunteer service hours opportunities. Betsy suggested to put on the CCC “About Us” page a link to the calendar and putting more volunteer opportunities there.
 - ii. May: Habitat Hero tour. Janey, BHS, and another person. In the past, we did this event in June. We agreed to move it to May this year and to do it on a weeknight. We should do it before the school year ends.
 - v. June: At the Strawberry Festival, CCC will have a table again to give away milkweed in newspaper pots with attachments describing future CCC events. Larry noted there will be a

lot of attention on the monarch butterfly population, so we can capitalize on that interest. Stacey will have Rachel grow milkweed for us again.

- vi. July & August: not much.
- vii. September: Native Plant Sale from 9am to 1pm. We discussed either Saturday, September 20th, which would coincide with the Goshen Farm Open House, or Saturday, September 27th. We want to reserve the sign board. Betsy suggested we order less due to other local plant sales. Stacey plans on ordering less plants to avoid selling surplus at Cathy's driveway. The Providence Center plant sale was the week after ours last year. Stacey will ask Rachel about the Providence Center sale and the Severna Park Hardware's plant sale.
- viii. October: Free Trees giveaway.
- ix. November: Speaker event on the evening of Friday, November 7th.

6. New Business:

- a. Watershed Steward information classes are upcoming in January. Stacey will send more information on the classes. If anyone interested, let her know. CCC will pay for tuition.
- b. Scholarships: Ella Sherman, our first CCC scholarship winner, finished her first semester. She is still enrolled, so we will send her the second \$500 to cover tuition for the next semester. All three applicants were in environmental studies based on their transcripts, but Ella listed in her application a very impressive array of volunteer projects she had worked on. Stacey and Phil went to the BHS ceremony in which the scholarships and grants were announced. CCC will post the same criteria this year's applications. Karen will join the committee which currently comprises Stacey, Phil, Jeanne, Marcia, and Ally.
- c. The CBT mini grant for \$3500 would be used for sedges in the Spring and the trees in the Fall. Stacey submitted her final report and CBT will let her know if anything is missing. Stacey sent photos of us working at a CCC planting event and they might put that in their promotional materials.
- d. Stacey will apply for a Unity Gardens grant again to help pay for the Spring ephemerals.
- e. MRA oysters: Brad reported that CCC's donation of \$1K towards the Oyster Reef Restoration contributed to the \$20K raised so far. A total of \$40K is needed for a shipload of 60 million oysters attached to shell. The CCC board agreed unanimously to make \$1K a regular, annual donation to improve water quality. Brad emphasized this is very worthwhile cause, as donated money goes into a dedicated fund to buy an entire shipload of oyster spat that would seed some or all of the seven historic reefs on the Magothy River. One reef is off Dobbins Island, and it is 12 feet down. An adult oyster can filter 50 gallons of water a day. Sena Higgins and others in Cape monitor the reefs.
- f. CCC donated over \$700 to Coastal Conservation Association (CCA). CCA helped build the reef balls on Noah's Reef. Larry will reach out to Dave Sikorski of CCA to get the free mini reef ball for CCC's donation.
- g. BHS Environmental Literacy student Sadie Seabrook is doing her action capstone project on oyster reef balls in the Bay. To investigate what aquatic life surrounds the reef balls off Cape St Claire, she wants to submerge a camera in the water ten times in four months. We agreed this will be a great project for CCC to support. Stacey will ask the BOG for permission.

7. Other:

- a. Marcia asked if we are in touch with BHS administration, specifically, if they know CCC and our projects. She suggested we reach out to the principal or the PTA. Stacey said she doesn't have any contact above the counselor level. Marcia suggested it would be good to make a connection by

sending them a letter similar to the letter we distributed throughout the neighborhood. The letter could especially highlight the CCC scholarship, Habitat Heroes, and other CCC projects involving students. Betsy said Environmental Literacy is a curriculum that BHS started. BHS is the national environmental school of the year.

- b. Bill thanked Karen for finishing the November minutes earlier than usual.
- c. Betsy suggested that CCC have a table at more festivals in the area to build awareness. Stacey said we want to focus on the community of CSC, but if there are events on the Broadneck Peninsula, we could consider it.
- d. Larry will be at Beau's property at 10am tomorrow to take advantage of the nice weather to plant the 25 or so plants that are remaining.
- e. Tonya gave an update on the Little Libraries. At some point, she may need some more children's books. Stacey ordered 20 blank lined books that can be used in the libraries, and we could draw some nature-themed images on the cover.

Adjourned 8:51.