

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting 2/17/2025

In attendance:

Board Members:

Alison Sayres, Betsy Jackson, Bill Rappoport, Tonya Powell, Karen Minor, Larry Jennings, Marcia Dudley, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger, Jeanne Klingler

Guests:

Rob Corletta, Christie Fowler, Rezin Mumma, Alex Price

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

1. Presentation by Broadneck High School Environmental Literacy students Rezin Mumma and Alex Price, re; Capstone project. Runoff is undermining the sailing shack at Lake Claire Beach. The students propose a small restoration project which involves stabilizing the shack by bringing in topsoil and planting Native grasses to slow runoff. They plan to plant five each of two different grasses. They hope to help keep kayak storage and possibly remove bamboo. They have applied for a portion of a grant given to the Environmental Literacy Program from Parole Rotary and are hoping for \$100 - \$200. They are asking CCC to help make up whatever funds won't cover expenses. They have presented their proposal to the CSCIA and Stacey invited them to share with the CCC Board. They are also hoping to get volunteers from CCC, National Honor Society and their own program for an April 5th work date. If needed, an extra date could be April 9, 10 or 11. Larry suggested that they consider using compost and mixing with the soil already in place. Stacey said the CCC could help acquire the grasses at a good price, possibly from Providence Center. There were questions about follow-through, watering, etc., and the students were looking into it. It was recommended that they may seek to use water from neighbors and to contact Miss Utility. The Board voted to give them up to \$200, if needed.
2. The January CCC meeting minutes were approved as amended.
3. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
 - i. General fund: \$36,822 \$500 expected from Wells Fargo
 - ii. Grants fund: \$0
 - Taxes: Phil has handled these. Next year may be more complicated if we get a grant for the path work.
4. Stacey attended the most recent CSCIA BOG Meeting. Her summary:
 - a. The students from the Environmental Literacy Program presented their proposal.
 - b. The Broadneck Surfriders Club sponsored a beach cleanup on January 26th. They had a good turnout and notably collected fishing line and small plastic.

- b. Chesapeake Regional National Park has yet to be introduced to the legislature.
- c. Pier contracts have gone out and are due back in March.
- d. The Broadneck Council of Communities is working on scheduling a series of meetings at the clubhouse involving state and local representatives
- e. All kayak racks are being cleaned and revamped. Rack holders have been notified to remove their boats. Many kayaks seem to be unused. No new racks can be built, but there could be expansion. New contracts may be available.
- f. Dredging is still on the plan for the Little Magothy. Most of the sand is slated for Lake Claire. Phil says he has noticed a bit of buildup there already.
- g. Big picture grants for 5 sites in Cape. Three bids were received but the main discussion is between Coastal Resources at 130K and Environmental Systems at 180K. Both companies have good recommendations.
- h. Other Capstone Projects:
 - i. Oyster reef photos - no progress; working on grants.
 - ii. Tree Trooper planting at Broadneck High School; Stacey and Brad were contacted as possible coordinators. No date given.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. Weed Warriors: The CSCIA Board says we can remove ivy from the field behind the Clubhouse. We'll look for a warm, dry day to do it.
- b. Big Trees: Robert, Betsy and Marcia worked on a descriptive blurb for the program and an application form. Clarifying suggestions were made for both, including: adding a deadline for receipt of application (August 1st), adding a box for homeowners who may want help choosing, general explanation of canopy vs sub-canopy trees, including a link to the Watershed Stewards Resilient Trees List, reminder that they can get any combination of two trees on our list It was suggested that renters could also get trees with homeowner approval. We will accept 25 orders, first come, first served. Stacey will coordinate. Changes to both documents need to be made by March 5, in order to get into the Caper. Stacey will also post in the usual places and will also include an Excel spreadsheet. Trees should arrive in October.
- c. Garden Advisory: Larry has two new clients. Stacey suggested he give them tree applications.
- d. Grant committee: No new info
- e. Corporate sponsor: No new info
- f. Habitat Hero: Article in Caper about Broadneck High Environmental Literacy Program. Marcia submitted great questions for Alison Davis to answer. The Habitat Hero Tour will include the Peoples' Garden, Jamie Wilhelm and, possibly one of the CCC areas. It will hopefully happen in May.
- g. Learning Libraries: Tonya reported that she could still use art supplies as well as containers for them. They can be given to her or placed in the libraries , as needed. She purchased two copies of Chadwick the Crab and can also use more childrens' level books.

6. Old Business

- a. Deep Creek. Still waiting on Richards for cost and VMP to remove bamboo.
- b. Foot Path: Phil reached out to CSCIA for letter of support when applying for grants; letter was received. He is going for an Anne Arundel County Restoration grant; he will meet with the Chesapeake Bay Trust for feedback on the application and how to present the project. CCC will give \$5000 for the project and maintain the area. CSCIA has made no monetary commitment. It appears that three organizations need to give approval for work on this area: the Swim Club, the BLOA and the CSCIA. The project will not affect the parking lot, although the lot will most likely become a staging area.
- c. Spring ephemerals. There are still a few assorted boxes remaining. Pick up from Providence Center on Thursday, March 20th. May need several vehicles. Possibly 40 flats plus add-ons. We may have to sort them; Stacy will print lists. Customer pickup will be Friday, March 21st, from 1 PM until 3 PM and Saturday, March 22nd from 10 AM until 1 PM at Little Magothy Beach. In conjunction, we will have a planting day with CCC ephemerals.
- e. Speaker event is March 5. Set up at 5:15 to 5:30 with doors opening at 6:30. The usual suspects will bring food and Grauls will supply a cheese tray. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$5 or 5 for \$20 for a few donated items.
- f. Cape Vibes dates to be determined. Stacey sent them a blurb about CCC.
- g. All bios are posted on the website.
- h. Website has been turned over to Betsy and Brad. They have watched tutorials and Bill Szczytko remains available for support. Betsy would like to expand on the "Get Involved" headings on the site; the Board agreed that her updates are great.
- i. 2025 BHS Scholarship will be featured in the March Caper. Stacey has reached out to Alison Davis and the counseling department for candidates. Deadline for applications is May 1st.
- j. Little Magothy Beach damage has been addressed; Frank Tewey spoke to the company responsible. They will repair the ruts. Stacey gave them a list of plants that will be purchased (by her) which include, ferns, asters, goldenrods, sumac and euonymus. She will be on site with them March 14th. Their deadline to finish is April 1st.
- k.. Serene Ravine: Stacey found large stumps and logs dumped at the Lakeview Lane end of the Serene Ravine path. She reported it to Frank Tewey
- l. Stacey reported that there are still slots available for the upcoming WSA conference. February 18th is the last day to get a discount.

7. New Business

- a. Stacey printed out the Mission and Vision statements for the CCC, which will appear on the website. The Vision Statement as presented was approved; the Mission Statement was approved, with edits as follows: Replace invasive plants with natives, prevent erosion and increase the natural beauty of Cape St Claire public areas.

- b. George Maurer has written an outline for a blog about invasive plants in Cape St Claire for the website. Phil suggested he use the book Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas as a reference. George also approached Stacey with the idea of writing about mosquitoes.
- c. Stacey was contacted about STEM Night at Cape St Claire Elementary School, which is happening on Wednesday, March 12th from 5 PM until 7PM. Ali and Marcia volunteered to man a table with some hands-on activities that relate to our CCC mission.
- d. Jennifer asked to revisit giving some sort of monetary appreciation award to Bill Szczytko for his help with the website over the years. Everyone agreed that Bill went above and beyond in volunteering to create and maintain our site - even more so because he isn't a board member. It was felt by some that this might set a dangerous precedent and create a slippery slope. How do you decide who gets a gift for all their hard work? What if someone feels slighted? Some clubs have had issues when they go down this road. And, yet, his work is greatly appreciated. Ultimately, a vote was taken and the motion failed with 2 abstentions, 3 approvals and 6 opposed.

Adjourned 8:50 p.m

“