

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 1/20/2024

In attendance:

Board members:

Alison Sayres, Betsy Jackson, Bill Rappoport, Brad Knopf, Jeanne Klinger, Jennifer Connor, Karen Minor, Marcia Dudley, Phil Ourisson, Stacey Wildberger

Guests:

Cathy Gazzo, Christie Fowler, John Runyon, Rob Corletta

Call to order: 6:38 p.m.

1. The December CCC meeting minutes were approved as amended.
2. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
 - i. General Fund: \$38,768
 - ii. Grants Fund: \$0
 - b. Dues: Some grant applications ask how much the board members of the requesting organization are donating. Phil asks that all board members consider this when making their annual donation. It is time for board members to pay the annual dues of \$20.
 - c. Fundraising:
 - i. Received two \$500 donations at the end of 2024.
 - ii. Phil reported that he still needs to pay \$2,122 in taxes on the plant sale and he is having technical issues making the payment so he has an upcoming meeting to solve the payment issue.
 - iii. We collected \$2,600 from distributing the letters throughout the community. Phil had more letters printed and is soliciting volunteers to distribute another batch of letters. Stacey suggested that perhaps next year we only print the letter in black and white to reduce printing costs.
 - iv. Phil is looking at possible grant funding to request funding for the upgrades to the footpath behind the pool.
 - d. CCC website: Website update has been completed. New look is quite impressive. Still a few tweaks to make but it is much easier to read and navigate. Brad is going to get together with Phil to see how it gets accessed and edited so that he can make future changes. Phil would like to focus on the treasury and fundraising and hand off website responsibilities.
3. Stacey attended the most recent CSCIA BOG meeting. Her summary:
 - a. Beach cleanup was postponed to January 26, 2024.
 - b. Chesapeake Regional Park was not voted on and will likely be brought up again in the future.
 - c. Cape Vibes is coming back May 11, 2025, June 21, 2025, 2-6 p.m., and July 13, and September 14, 4-8 pm. They have asked CSCIA for these dates but are waiting on approval. On the first Sunday of each month they want to do an open jam from 4-7 p.m at Lake Claire.
 - d. Still working on permitting for the dredging of the Little Magothy so the sand can be captured for the beach. They put out for bids for design proposals for the remaining five sites. There are three total bids. Biohabitats was a higher cost than the other two bids. A subcommittee of the BOG was to meet this past Thursday to make a decision on the bids.

- e. 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. This is in addition to seeking other larger grants.
- f. No update on Fairwinds.

4. Committee Reports:

- a. Weed Warriors: No updates.
- b. Big Trees: Robert clarified that there are tree troopers on the board. He has not found many free tree programs in the area but there are low-cost plans. Stacey plans on using tree troopers to obtain \$25 trees for the resident tree replacement program. The trees would be from the resilient tree species manual. We would likely narrow the options down to five to seven choices. CCC could help the resident choose a tree based on the conditions of their site. We can offer canopy trees and smaller trees to help build layers. We need to develop the criteria to help decide who qualifies for a free tree. Tree troopers require a property owner agreement to be signed. Owner would sign the agreement, but we would agree to follow up. Phil suggested that perhaps we could obtain some very small free trees from the Arbor Day Foundation. Jeannie indicated that the Arbor Day Foundation gives away a lot of non-native trees. Robert asked if this was an additional Tree Trooper project in addition to the Serene Ravine and Little Magothy Beach. The plan is to come up with the application criteria and desired species. We also need to decide how many trees to do the first year particularly considering we will have to continue to monitor in ongoing years.
- c. Garden Advisory: No updates
- d. Grants: See above under Stacey's BOG report.
- e. Corporate Sponsors: No updates
- f. Habitat Heroes: Marcia wrote questions that went to Alison Davis that Alison answered so that the BHS write up can go in the next Caper. Waiting on photographs to include.
- g. Learning libraries: All art supplies at Serene Ravine are gone except for two pencils. Stacey will order supplies to restock. If board members have supplies for restock just drop them off directly at the libraries.

5. Old Business:

- a. Deep Creek bamboo removal VMP – still waiting on an estimate from Christy at Richards so no new updates.
- b. Footpath behind the pool – still working on grant ideas to fund.
- c. The Spring ephemeral “First Flowers” boxes sold extremely well. Stacey ramping up to sell the last couple of boxes that are remaining. Only a few spots available. If all the spots are not sold the items can be sold as pick-up items or planted at one of our sites.
- d. We discussed upcoming CCC spring projects for 2025:
 - i. Stacey ordered spring ephemerals from Barry Glick of Sunshine Farms in West Virginia. We will need to plant them early so we need to decide when they should arrive. Stacey proposed March 14 and 15 for planting and have them delivered that week. Jeannie is willing to have them delivered to her house.
 - ii. Stacey ordered ferns, Virginia bluebells, zigzag goldenrod, and some other items from Providence Center that will come sometime in April.
 - iii. Stacey ordered 150 milkweed plants to be distributed at the Strawberry Festival.
 - iv. March:

- Speaker event on March 5, 2025. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Ellen Prager and Dave Jones confirmed to speak on climate change. Their book is Megalodons, Mermaids, and Climate Change. We will do a raffle but not a full silent auction. We have a \$100 gift card to Ace and some other pieces of art that can be raffled. We will save the art auction for once a year in November.
- March 20-21st time frame “First Flowers” Spring ephemerals pickup. Jeanne volunteered her driveway for the pickup.

v. April:

- Project Clean Stream will be the morning of Saturday, April 5th.
 - Weed Warriors will start April 2nd. We all agreed to hold the Weed Warriors kickoff on the evening of Wednesday, April 9th. Everyone is tasked with trying to think of a catchy name for the Open House event that brings people in.
- e. Need one last bio and the board bios are complete.
- f. ELIT Student capstone project – waiting on final details.

6. New Business:

- a. Do we want to gift Bill S. a gift of some sort to thank him for the time he has contributed to the website? He is covering the price of the first year of a part of the cost of the new website.
- b. Scholarships: Alison Davis has some students in mind to recommend for our scholarship. The information is already posted on the website. The students do not have to live in Cape, but they must go to Broadneck High School.
- c. Damage at Little Magothy Beach: Stacey asked Frank about the status of things after the CSCIA Board of Governors meeting, but Frank did not have any answer yet. They came in through the driveway and made huge ruts. They destroyed the path going toward the Little Library and toward Cliff’s house. Small trees and smaller plants were destroyed. Stacey told Frank we want \$2,000. Frank suggested that the CSC attorney could write a letter, but we would need to take them to small claims court. Marcia asked if we could post a boundary for future to make people aware where Cape property begins.
- d. Website: Addressed above. Brad will help and Stacey would like to learn as well. Betsy helped on the revamp but Stacey did not get a chance to ask if she wants to continue on this project.
- e. Secretary: Karen Minor asked via email to step down as secretary as she is retiring. Jennifer Connor was voted unanimously as the new secretary.
- f. Mission Statement: The fundraising class suggested that the vision statement be shortened into a soundbite. Stacey presented an updated longer vision statement, and we need to come up with a shortened version. The statement should be short and to the point or we will lose our readers. A vision statement is an expanded version for long term. Next month people should come with proposed mission statements.
- g. Watershed Steward Annual Conference: the annual conference is open to anyone. The keynote speaker is Benjamin Vogt who will be presenting via video as he is trying to reduce his carbon footprint. He discusses ethics of the land. Vogt is strict about planting only native plants. The conference is Saturday, March 1, 2025.

7. Other:

- a. Unity Garden has an annual spring lecture series February 22, 2025. Natures Blueprint: Designing for Resiliency with Native Plants. Allison Milligan will be speaking.
- b. Thank you to Karen for many years of service as secretary.
- c. Marcia and Bill did a workshop at the Bee Lab Annex. Now instead of the hoophouse there is an indoor location. They learned how to mix seeds with sand in jugs. There will be a follow up workshop once the seeds have germinated how to repot them.
- d. Phil asked again for board member dues and volunteers for distributing fundraising letters.

Adjourned 7:53 p.m.