

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 10/20/2025

In attendance:

Board members:

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

Guests:

Christy Fowler, Cathy Gazzo, Chad Langley, Suzette Langley, John Runyon, Adrienne Messer, Dave Schulke

Call to order: 7:03 p.m.

1. The September CCC meeting minutes were approved as amended.
2. Welcome to members and guests for tonight's annual membership meeting. The guests introduced themselves.
3. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
 - i. General Fund: \$53,138 but we owe \$14,953.53 on the credit card so final balance is \$38,184.85
4. Committee Reports:
 - a. BOG Meeting: Stacey attended the BOG meeting.
 - i. Sign by the guard shack is now repaired.
 - ii. Memorial bench or table that a resident requested has been purchased and will likely be installed in the spring at Lake Claire.
 - iii. Deep Creek bulkhead repairs are underway, and Phase 2 will start in December.
 - iv. They discussed some issues with variances that have been ongoing.
 - v. Firehouse has resulted in road work on Cape St. Claire Road which has surprised residents. Firehouse construction is scheduled to begin in May 2026.
 - vi. Broadneck Community Council meeting October 23, 2025, at 7 p.m. SHA will be back to review some of what they learned this summer from Route 50 road closures. Will discuss the Bay Bridge Study. Some of the local representatives will be there.
 - vii. CSCIA quarterly meeting is October 28, 2025, where the budget for next year will be presented. Stacey and Brad cannot attend but Phil will attend.
 - viii. Little Magothy dredging has begun. Anticipating 4-6 cubic yards of sand but Cape will not receive it. CSCIA is still submitting permits in an effort to get future sand.
 - ix. Beau met with Laura Todd on planning for the five sites.
 - b. Block Party: 18 years ago the neighbors on St. Johns were trying to figure out how to throw a big party. Kim Pollock suggested that each year they pick a charity to support while throwing the party. This year CCC was the beneficiary of the block party. This year was over \$2,000.
 - c. Conservation Crew: Two more weeks of work. We have cardboard boxes at Serene Ravine. This week the work will be at Serene Ravine and then next week will be the final week at Little Magothy.

We can always do some daytime and weekend work through the winter. Stacey pulled up at Little Magothy tonight and the volunteer crew was there planting the final plants. If it does not rain much, we will need to continue to water the trees with the dark blue flags. The waterers have started a text group to coordinate. Will water the trees at Serene Ravine on Wednesday.

- d. Big Trees: No updates on Big Trees.
- e. Garden Advisory: No updates.
- f. Grants: No updates.
- g. Corporate Sponsors: Gave Cathy Gazzo her certificate as the first person to renew this year. Also recognized Broadneck Grill and Donnellys. Stacey contacted Bella's, Edward Goodwin, and Grauls about renewing. Phil will go to Fairwinds. Stacey will take one to Cape Hair Scene. Wellspring cannot do it right now but maybe in the spring. Delmarva Group (Beau) has been contacted. Richards has done a ton of work for us and has ordered bags with their logo for us. Stacey suggested some of the other shops in the Cape Shopping Center that we have not asked before.
- h. Habitat Heroes: Stacey got in touch with Karen Mullin and wrote the article about her being this year's habitat hero. When she moved in the yard was new construction and she put a ton of effort into minimizing lawn and adding garden and big trees for pollinators.
- i. Learning libraries: Stacey received a suggestion from her daughter to add pencil sharpeners for the colored pencils.
- j. Construction Site Monitoring: Brad and Phil monitor construction once a month. They find current permits for grading or construction and they visit each site once a month to make sure erosion control requirements are in place. If they find a violation they report it to the County who sends an inspector.

5. Old Business:

- a. Upcoming events:
 - i. Weed Warriors Wednesday
 - ii. Mulching at Serene Ravine on Saturday. Bring shovels, rakes, and whatever other supplies could be used.
 - iii. Mulching will be done at Little Magothy the following week and return them on the 3rd.
 - iv. November 7, 2025 – fall speaker will be Joan Maloof. She has books on old growth forest. She should be a great draw. This will bring in more people to bid on the auction items. Silent auction from 6-8. The guy that did chainsaw sculpture is going to donate something. We have some trees for the auction as well as local art. We can get gift cards to add to the giveaways. Jeanne is going to get the big blowups made of the list and location of the big trees. We will have a donation jar. Phil will ask Graul's for a platter of food. Brad has flyers and we need volunteers to get them distributed at Cape Shopping Center and Bay Hills. Jeanne will do Cape, Betsy will do Bay Hills.
- b. Mosquito Bucket Challenge: Stacey would like to do it again next year. Stacey will speak about it at Watershed Stewards later this month.
- c. Plant Sale wrap-up: It was successful, and we made money. We still need to pay the sales taxes but there is enough money to pay. Stacey received a lot of compliments on the signage and arrangement. Betsy mentioned that people did not use the lists up on posts. But just having the plants arranged by sun and/or shade helped. There were less leftovers this year and they sold quickly. Betsy also mentioned that the grab-and-go boxes sold well and we should repeat for next year. People also used

the boxes for reference to add one off plants to what they already have at home. It was good to have the experts in different colored shirts from the sales crew.

- d. Free tree giveaway: 31 households received 57 trees. Our cost was \$25 per tree and we gave them away for free. We offered a choice of 5 undergrowth and 5 canopy trees. Pickup went smoothly which was combined with planting trees that were ordered for Little Magothy.
- e. Spring Ephemeral boxes: Stacey will coordinate to get them ordered
- f. Ren fest: Cathy Heggerty volunteered and we got \$157

6. New Business:

- a. 2026 Calendar – we need to review the 2025 calendar and make sure the list is complete for an end of year wrap up. We should also review for what we want to keep or delete for the 2026 calendar. Stacey mentioned that we didn't do the invasive plant swap this year but that she would like to bring it back in addition to doing the Spring ephemeral boxes. Need to select a plant sale date ASAP.
 - i. Ideas for attracting more people to the April Open House: Kona Ice, etc.
- b. Brad met with an environmental literacy class who had asked for a project. Brad explained that the oyster trays are getting old. The class made new oyster trays. They turned out great. Stacey mentioned that things like this and tree pictures should get on the website. Kellen Moore finished the table for the oyster nursery as his scout project. Brad is wrapping up the oyster nursery for the season and will close it this Saturday.
- c. Betsy mentioned that we consider upping our annual scholarship amount to \$2,000. Marcia suggested that another idea could be to consider multiple recipients.
- d. \$500 from Wells Fargo was earned this week based on the volunteer hours Stacey submitted
- e. Stacey gave a talk at New Hope Church explaining who we are and what we do. The attendees were very interested in how we organized and how to deal with some of challenges.
- f. Stacey will talk at the Watershed Steward Summit

7. Other

- a. Bill will bring his hose for watering the trees for Serene Ravine on Wednesday.

Adjourned 8:19 p.m.