

Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 11/17/2025

In attendance:

Board members:

Bill Rappoport, Brad Knopf, Jeanne Klinger, Jennifer Connor, Marcia Dudley, Phil Ourisson, Betsy Jackson, Larry Jennings, Karen Minor, Alison Sayres, Tonya Powell, Stacey Wildberger (attended by phone)

Guests:

Cathy Gazzo, John Runyon, Jess Corliss, Judy Runyon

Call to order: 7:06 p.m.

1. The October CCC meeting minutes were approved as amended.
2. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
 - i. General Fund: \$41,225. Still owe sales tax from the plant sale but Phil will handle. It is \$1,342.
3. Committee Reports:
 - a. BOG Meeting: Stacey attended the BOG meeting.
 - i. Work is completed near the Blue Ridge/Hilltop intersection by the County for a storm drain. Phil is not completely satisfied. To get the water to go into the storm drain, they used blacktop and it eroded before. We will have to see how it operates the next time we have rain and see how the water flows. Then we can talk with the swim club about working together to improve the path.
 - ii. Fairwinds informed the Board that they are moving forward with either townhouses or marina expansion/improvement. They have plans drawn for both options. They did not provide much detail.
 - iii. LED lights are installed at all parks.
 - iv. Deep Creek improvements are getting ready to start again. The ramp ~~and pier~~ will be closed for short amounts of time; the small T pier will be closed until work is completed. Work is starting December 9.
 - v. Christmas tree lighting is going to be November 30.
 - vi. Little Magothy channel dredging is ongoing. There are multiple large pickup trucks at the oyster nursery lot. These are dredging crew vehicles.
 - b. Conservation Crew: Total hours of volunteer work for the year include 810 hours of work. Removed 8,775 square feet of invasive plants. Planted over 1,600 native plants. 200 trees and shrubs. This was done by 271 adults and 119 youth volunteers.
 - c. Big Trees: No updates on Big Trees.
 - d. Garden Advisory: Started a project for the upcoming sale. Barbara and George Breeden have a big project for their back yard. They have put boxes down in the yard and put leaves over and they need more boxes. Larry is working on a plan for two sides of the house. Estimates it will wind up being \$3,000 worth of plants.
 - e. Grants: No updates.
 - f. Corporate Sponsors: No updates.

- g. Habitat Heroes: Alison can grab the Habitat Hero sign from the high school.
- h. Learning libraries: Supplies and journals are still there. People wrote some notes. No profanity.
- i. Construction Site Monitoring: Brad and Phil continue their monthly rounds; Phil noted no issues this month. There had been a communication problem with County in the Severna Park/Pasadena area. Now there is a general email address to send reports so the director, admins and supervisors all see it so there won't be a problem.
- j. Eagle Scouts: Eagle Scouts and the BHS Environmental Literacy class has been doing great work for the oyster nursery. Brad wrote a bit in the year end review about the work that has been done. An Eagle scout candidate is considering making entrance arches at Serene Ravine and Little Magothy, as well as add stepping stones to both entrances, and define the parking area at Serene Ravine with rounds of wood. They are also considering 1-2 osprey platforms.

4. Old Business:

- a. Speaker event: Was a great success. Had about 60 attendees. The silent auction sales more than covered Joan's speaker fee. Brad has continued to talk with her about the status of Bacon Ridge. Stacey suggested we go as a group to the Walk for the Woods event in the spring.
- b. We are getting a small dump of woodchips next Saturday. We will spread at 9 am at Little Magothy to finish up the top where we ran short of wood chips last time.
- c. Spring Ephemeral boxes: Box of 10 will be \$70-\$80 per box. Plus you can add on things like Virginia blue bells.

5. New Business:

- a. Goshen Farm is asking us to partner with them for a three-year project. They have a \$48,000 grant pending. There are other organizations that are also being asked to participate. They are not suggesting a huge lift just from CCC. Betsy asked if Goshen has a good volunteer base of their own and a strong connection with the high school. They have a good partnership with DNR who is helping and consulting. The idea isn't that CCC would be fully committed to getting everything planted, but we can help coordinate volunteers and give advice. We can help physically as we can without taking away from our projects. They are hoping to collaborate with: CCC, Garden Club, MRA, National Honor Society, Cape Elementary, high school, the fire station. Jess Corliss presented the plan:
 - i. She is the financial development chair at Goshen. They have identified a Keep Maryland Beautiful grant through the Chesapeake Trust. This grant is specific to planting and reforestation.
 - ii. They identified three different areas on the property to plant trees; 1) up the Goshen driveway at a small parking area/trailhead which is about two acres, 2) they want to plant on either side of the driveway at the open field, 3) Goshen hiking trails behind the elementary school. One comes from the soccer fields and one is closer to the building that goes all the way to the Walnut Ridge condos and halfway to the condos you can take a left to get to Goshen. The proposal is for this second path.
 - iii. There is mitigation that is required associated with the building of the new fire house. Part of the mitigation will happen on the Northeastern portion of the property. It's about 3-4 acres. Goshen is 22 acres total. The proposal for the grant is not near the mitigation work but would be complimentary.

- iv. The three areas consist of quite a bit of space. Jess asked if this was a realistic plan for a three-year timeline given the scope of the project. 2026 would be clean up, 2027 would be planting.
- v. Brandon Willie is the forester with DNR who produced a report for Goshen regarding the fire house plan. Goshen has met with Brandon who told him her initial number of plants per acre was too much. So now she's looking to do 450 plants for three acres - 385 trees and 70 shrubs.
- vi. Stacey commented that she does not think three workdays is sufficient for the cleanup.
- vii. There is some money in the budget (\$6,500 plus \$4,500) for hired laborers such as an auger digger, getting water to water the plants, etc. Stacey thinks 2026 and spring 2027 should be removal and prep. The planting can be done in 2-3 workdays in the fall.
- viii. Goshen talked with a contractor that gave rough figures to help establish the proposed budget.
- ix. The total grant is for \$46,000. \$23,000 on trees, \$2,000 on shrubs, \$11,000 labor, \$3200 supplies, some money for signage. This does not include a potential archeology if that became an issue.
- x. Marcia asked if the sites had been prioritized and would they be done sequentially or all at once. Jess replied that she is open to feedback on that. She doesn't know for sure if this is doable or too big.
- xi. Along the historic path they are looking to clear and plant 15 feet on either side of the trail.
- xii. Brad suggested Brian Guggerty, Save our Trees, as they specialize in ivy removal.
- xiii. Stacey reminded everyone that maintenance will go beyond three years.
- xiv. Marcia suggested that the driveway planting happen in year one since the area is already prepped. Year two could be the two-acre "nightmare," and then year three could be the historic trail.
- xv. Larry wants to look at the site before committing to anything.
- xvi. The grant proposal is due December 1, 2025.
- xvii. John suggested a group agree to go look at it together. Mulching will be this Saturday at 9, and immediately head over to Goshen around 10:45.
- xviii. Jess mentioned that they are waiting to hear about a separate grant she submitted in March to improve their driveway.

- b. Brad met with the BHS 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 Eagle scout project. Brad has wrapped up the oyster nursery for the season.
- c. 2026 calendar will be discussed next meeting.
- d. WSA Steward info classes are coming up. Board members can have the steward program paid for by CCC. Betsy signed up for one of the info sessions.

6. Other

- a. Karen has a ton of asters that divide well. She has too many. She wants to plant some of the root balls on the sunny side of the slope of Serene Ravine. Stacey said it is ok to try to plant, but everything that has been planted there before has been consumed by bush killer.

- b. Betsy mentioned that Whimsicality donated bags that became door prizes and asked if we should send a thank you letter. Phil mentioned that we should send a note to each artist. Stacy already contacted each of them and thanked them.
- c. Jeanne mentioned that the trees at the auction were planted on the cold windy Tuesday. They were planted at Serene Ravine.

Adjourned 8:15 p.m.

Closed Session Began at 8:15 p.m.

Board voted to participate approved unanimously

Closed Session Ended at 8:16 p.m.