Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on 8/17/2026

In attendance:

Board members:

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

Guests:

Cathy Gazzo

Call to order: 7:04 p.m.

1. The July meeting minutes were approved as amended.

2. Treasurer's report:
   a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
      i. General Fund: $32,479.84

3. Committee Reports:
   a. BOG Meeting:
      i. Permits pending for Biohabitats sand
      ii. Candidates night is coming in October. Date TBD
      iii. Beau has introduced a proposal for a strategic land acquisition/land trust where in the future Cape would form a trust so that land could be acquired. For example if a property went up for sale next to one of the Cape properties, then Cape could consider trying to get the property.
      iv. Goshen announced a concert this coming Friday and their Wine Down on 8/29 6-9 pm. Another concert on 9/11 and their open house is 9/19.
      v. Coastal Resources gave their presentation at the CSCIA quarterly meeting. They did take into consideration and made modifications based on prior community comments. They have switched from coir logs to real tree trunks for shoreline erosion control. The presentation will be posted on the CSCIA website.
   b. Conservation Crew: The Warriors are working hard to keep up with the bush killer. A huge tree came down last week while work was being done. Missed the neighbor's fence but made a huge sonic boom sound. This coming week will be at Serene Ravine.
   c. Big Trees: Betsy and Brad worked on a Google map with the trees. Stacey plugged the addresses into AI to create a driving plan to see all of the trees. Once the map is finalized it will go on the website. It is layered so species can be grouped or layered individually.
   d. Garden Advisory: Larry has been busy. Five appointments a week on average. A couple of repeat visits to sites. Working on a living shoreline on Rolling View which looks like it is going to work out well. Barbara Breeden is interested in something for her yard. Larry is going to offer people rides to Adkins Arboretum garden tours. The tours are free admission. There is a movie on caterpillars. There will be two house tours with the landscapers that designed them and a meadow.
   e. Grants: No updates.
   f. Corporate Sponsors: No updates
   g. Habitat Heroes: Joy Tester has been nominated. She participates in our events and she and her son have donated artwork.

h. Learning libraries: Stacey has been getting a trickle of books in. Some have not yet been put out. Stacey also went to a curb alert and chose 8-10 books for the libraries.
i. Construction Site Monitoring: There was some discussion on Facebook about the construction surrounding the firehouse. There is mud seeping out of the property and into the creek discoloring the creek. Seems to be under control now. Overall things have been quiet. Houses have been completed on Phil's tour. There is a continuing trend of people putting huge houses on lots where it was previously a small building.
j. Oyster Nursery: Nursery is going well. Have had some mud issues but overall things are great and they are growing really well this year.
k. Website: Betsy has added the new blog and other items to the website. Will update big trees when appropriate.

4. Old Business:
    a. Eagle Scout Project – still pending approval. They want an engineer to approve the plan. We have to give up on the idea of natural branches for the support columns of the arch and use pressure treated wood. Can be two posts with something across the top and the wood-burned sign that says Serene Ravine. Stacey suspects that it is the arch that is holding up the approval.
    b. Larry spoke at Goshen on native plants. It went well. Less people attended than planned because it wound up being rescheduled due to poor air quality. Nine to ten people attended. It was a relaxed conversation for two hours.

5. New Business:
    a. The free tree pickup will be 9/25 and 9/26. Not all of the spots were taken but we had approximately 20 people sign up. Stacey ordered a few additional trees for us to plant during our fall plant. WSA is going through a big changeover. The new person that took over the Tree Trooper program is getting up to speed so she has been hard to get a hold of. Stacey emailed Schotts directly and copied the WSA rep. Shrubs for the plant sale as well as these trees will all be on the same truck. Also on this truck will be some outside orders so that the shipping cost is shared. Stacey ordered 50 Sumac/Rhus for planting. Also some plugs and other items left over for the sale.
    b. Fall planting will be 10/10. May need two days or all day on the 10th. If we can get a big crew to help with the trees then smaller items can be planted later.
    c. Stacey was approached by a Girl Scout Troop leader with a troop that wanted to do some work. The event will be September 8 for one hour. Stacey will talk a bit and then have them pull some bush killer at Serene Ravine. It will be a small event.
    d. Workday for the swim path will be September 12 which is the Saturday after the pool has closed. Hope that the swim club members will come out to help. This will be 8 am – 3 pm. There are different shifts. The flyer has a QR code for people to sign up. Thor has posted about it on Facebook and will send something out to the swim club members. Brad hung the flyers in the shopping center. Matthew Toronto has agreed to haul the debris away. The staging area will be the parking lot of the pool. A few people have signed up already. There is some poison ivy that people should be aware of. Phil visited the path after one of the bigger rain storms recently. Some of the stones at the very top of the path got washed away. The little ledge at the top is not quite enough. He called 311 and the response was that big storm events are going to happen and they are not going to do anything about it. Phil is planning on going to get a couple of bags of stones to add.

e. Stacey will be talking about invasive plants at Goshen including all of the new prohibited lists and best practices for removal. Fifteen people have signed up so far. This Saturday at 9 am.
f. Mulching dates need to be set for end of October/beginning to middle of November.
g. Brenden Curran has been confirmed for the fall speaker event on 11/6.
h. Plant sale – Sign ups for the plant sale are to come. All hands on deck. We have one more meeting before the sale but it is the week of the sale. We will not do Weed Warriors that week. Same logistics that have worked in the past. Open to suggestions. Need lots of reminders that people need to get tallied before they go to pay. Karen suggested we bring more carts to help move them. We will have the expert tables in the front again. Bill will bring the stakes for the corral. The posts will encourage people to bring wagons and totes. Brad has signage covered. Expert shirts are available from last year. The total plant orders for the sale is $19,000. A few additional plant signs will be made by Jill. Bill will be our pollinator pathway spokesperson. Will promote on social media. Flyers will get posted closer to the sale in the shopping centers. Jeanne and Betsy to do price tags. Delivery day starts at 7 am. Phil has already confirmed 21 tables from Mary. Karen will help with chairs. John will get us some boxes. We need more flats than big boxes.
i. 2026 Events Calendar:
    i. September:
        1. Sept 12 - Work day at the swim club path. The swim club should help but we can also get a sports team involved.
        2. Broadneck Grill fundraiser September 16
        3. Oyster spat delivery – 17th
        4. Set up shade/sun grab and go boxes – Sept 24
        5. Plant delivery day – Sept 25
        6. Free tree pickup – September 25
        7. Plant sale – Sept 26 – 7-9 set up, 9-1 sale
    ii. October:
        1. Fall planting event – October 10
        2. BHS Environmental Lit Class make oyster nursery trays - TBD
        3. Mulch Serene Ravine 10/31, 11/7, 11/14?
    iii. November
        1. Brenden Curran turtles – 11/6

6. <u>Other</u>
    a. None

Adjourned 8:28 p.m.