Minutes of Cape Conservation Corps Meeting on September 21, 2026

In attendance:

Board members:

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

Guests:

John Runyon, Kyle & Aaron West

Call to order: 7:01 p.m.

1. Kyle West reported on his Eagle Scout project for the parking bollards and path entrance to the Serene Ravine. Kyle has paid the $129 building permit. The permit is approved but there are a few things left to handle. Johnson Lumber donated $100 worth of lumber and provided a discount on the rest of the purchased materials. Richard's Tree Care will provide the posts for the fencing. The structure of the arch will be different from the original plans. The cross pieces for the arch will be larger and the wood will be thicker for safety reasons. After permit approval, holes and concrete footings will be installed and inspected. Dates still to be determined. The parking lot perimeter will be delineated using cut log sections. The decision was made to have the sign under a separate permit. Dan Wildberger, licensed architect of Edge Architecture, did the drawing for that permit application. The pavers have been acquired and will be given to Stacey. Kyle and his troop will work together on the labor in building and installation. Kyle said he might need additional funds from CCC for the permit. Stacey asked Kyle to save his receipts in case additional money is needed.
2. The August CCC meeting minutes were approved.
3. Treasurer's report:
    a. Account balances: (Phil sent an email of the details)
        i. General Fund: $32,800 as of September 13th, but he has received more money since then. Broadneck Grill donation was $83.
        ii. Grants Fund: $0.
4. Stacey expressed her gratitude to everyone in advance of the upcoming CCC events in September and October, such as the Native Plant Sale. Autumn is an especially busy time of year for CCC.
5. Stacey attended the most recent CSCIA Board of Governors (BOG) meeting. Her summary:
    a. The Caper finally billed CCC for the additional pages printed for our monthly articles. Betsy complimented Stacey on her most recent article.
    b. Biohabitats & MDE permitting is still ongoing.
    c. Hoping to have permits for Coastal Resources plans for sites 3-7 by January.

6. Committee Reports:
    a. Weed Warriors/Conservation Crew is still ongoing but will skip this coming Wednesday due to the Plant Sale. Last week at the Serene Ravine, despite having no kids volunteering, Betsy and Ginny filled two full bags of weeds in the morning, and in the afternoon, John, David, and Stacey filled nine bags with weeds from along the neighboring homeowner's silt fence and driveway. The homeowner agreed to remove the silt fence. Stacey hopes to plant a hedge of shrubs in that area, which will have a significant amount of sun after Richard's Tree Care removes four invasive mulberry trees there. The trees will be removed by the first week in

October for $500, a generous charge. Richard's will also generously donate to CCC 250 more bags with their company name and CCC's logo on them. After the Plant Sale, Stacey has many kids signed up to help the Conservation Crew on the next weeding on September 30th.

b. Big Trees: Betsy described the map on CCC's Cape Loves Trees page. Hopefully soon, Bill Szczytko will post some new content, including the updated tree list with links to Google Maps and a new article. Betsy suggested that down the road, we look for more trees to add to the list.
c. Garden Advisory: Larry reported that he has been very busy and has taken on a new category, "small plots". He is consulting on several gardens in the area of Little Magothy View. Many of his clients will enjoy the advantage of prepaying for plants ahead of the Native Plant Sale. Larry has put in significant work on Beau & Alison's property and Father Jim's yard. Four Seasons has made a large pre-order.
d. Grants: No updates.
e. Corporate Sponsors: Phil said Broadneck Grill changed the frequency of donations from their sales, which may affect their sponsorship level. Their sponsorship level based on donations will be evaluated at the end of the year.
f. Habitat Heroes: Joy Tester's property is described on the Habitat Hero page of the CCC website, and will be featured in the upcoming October Caper article. Kristi Coopersmith will be the other Habitat Hero this year. Both Joy and Kristi will receive a gift certificate from CCC for their efforts in providing native habitats for wildlife in their yards.
g. Learning Libraries: Tonya reported that a journal that was missing for several months has been returned. During the meeting, Tonya shared several nice notes that were written in the journal. Ali described the positive feedback she's received from her friend on how her family enjoys the Library along the Little Magothy Beach path.
h. Construction monitoring. Brad mentioned that small properties often don't require grading permits, but homeowners seem to know that they are subject to monitoring.
i. Oyster Nursery: Brad reported that this past Sunday's Little Magothy Association event featured a 50/50 raffle to raise money to buy a new pump for the oyster nursery. A person who won $250 in the raffle generously kicked it back to the association to augment the oyster nursery fundraising.
j. Website: Betsy posted Stacey's August blog article on layered plantings as well as the Habitat Hero articles.

7. Old Business:
    a. Stacey reported that her talk in the hoop house at Goshen Farm went well. Lots of people came, including some new faces, and she received good feedback. Stacey shared some of the handouts at the meeting.
    b. Larry said his presentation lasted two hours and he had some new people as well.
    c. The sign up for Free Trees through Watershed Stewards Academy is going well. Pickup will be on Friday, September 25th at the field and during the Native Plant Sale the following day. John will man the table on both days. Stacey said most of the recipients have already signed their property agreements. The total for the trees was $1,730. CCC pays $25 per tree. The shipping charge from Schott's Nursery for all the trees (the Free Trees and the trees for the Native Plant Sale) was $500, of which, CCC will pay $200.
    d. Fall planting will be on Saturday, October 10th at the Serene Ravine.

e. The work day at the Swim Path was very successful. 30 people (18 adults & 12 youth) contributed 86 hours of work. A huge thank you is owed to Matthews Hauling for taking away a huge pile of plant debris and bags. Volunteers also made two huge piles of mostly dead bamboo. Later in the day, Dylon came back from the landfill and filled another trailer to take the bamboo away. Stacey contacted Jeff Haines to coordinate with Matthew on reimbursing him for any charges at the landfill. Phil will purchase two bags of stone to cover the areas where rain water washed the stones away. It's a minor expense of $10 per bag. The next workday at the Swim Path will be in the Spring. The plan includes eventually cutting down and spraying bamboo along the path.
f. The dates for mulching in late October/early November are still to be determined.

8. New Business:
    a. Larry, Stacey, and Brad met with Tabatha Bathras, the STEM teacher at Cape St Claire Elementary School. This year, a hands-on project is planned to build 20 oyster reef balls on school property in November. There was a 45-minute presentation on the project in the auditorium. The plan is to have two 1.5 to 2-hour build sessions on the field to build 10 reef balls each on the first day, followed by another day for the kids to go out and take the reef balls to the drop site, at Noah's Reef or some other area of the Magothy River. They would need to raise about $2,500 for the project. Stacey asked Tabatha for an update. Larry said CCA would be able to cover the additional cost after collecting $15 from each of the 5th grade student participants. At least 110 students have signed up to participate. At this meeting, the board voted that CCC would donate $1,000 towards the project.
    b. The November Speaker event at the Clubhouse will again feature items to auction off, but the quantity of items will be limited compared to past speaker events. Joy Tester's son is excited about doing one collaboration art project collectively worked on to donate to the silent auction. Rob Hamilton, who generously donated a guitar last year, will donate an acoustic guitar this year. We will do a drawing for that.
    c. Stacey asked that everyone start thinking about events for 2027. We decided to continue having the CCC board meetings on the third Monday of each month. Thinking ahead for next year, Phil will reserve the Clubhouse for the evening of Friday, November 5th, 2027.
    d. Next month's October CCC board meeting will be the annual Membership night.
    e. Cathy Haggerty signed up again for the Renaissance Festival. She volunteered and the festival had a record-breaking weekend of attendance. She worked a shift but she doesn't know yet how much she earned for CCC.
    f. April Bly had a children's playgroup at The Shoppe. She is looking for community sponsorships of her vision of projects. Stacey asked the board how much we want to contribute and at what sponsorship level. The proposal of $250 was voted on and approved.

9. Stacey's list of details and plans for the Native Plant Sale were reviewed and discussed.

Adjourned: 7:48 p.m.