

Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board



Minutes for the Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting – 12 March, 2024

Acting Chairman Dan Landry called this meeting to order at 1:35 PM, and last month's minutes were approved with minute corrections.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joli McCathran reported that the Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee has awarded Kensington Elementary School \$185 to help pay for costs associated with reconstructing the school's garden. These funds were deposited to the board's account, and then transferred to Kensington Elementary School. The account balance accordingly remains unchanged at \$5,900.88. Joli also commented that the board has currently received three applications for this year's Natural Resources Career Camp.

Chair's Report

Acting Chairman Dan Landry reiterated that the board has received three applications for this year's Natural Resources Career Camp, and further added that two interviews remain to be conducted. Natasha Shangold expressed her interest in helping with the interview process.

Acting Chairman Dan Landry noted on Chairman Jim Harris's behalf that the tree identification activity proposed for Galway Elementary School has been cancelled. The board briefly discussed whether other schools might be interested in pursuing similar activities. The discussion will resume in April's meeting. In the meantime, Lee Derby will petition interest among other schools. Joe Howard explained that the trees on the Smith Center's property are identified with placards and wire. Lee produced tree identification placards from his desk's drawer for all the board to glimpse and gaze upon. These placards or similar means of tree identification may be used for tree identification activities for any schools interested in participating.

Tree Planting

A tree planting is scheduled for Saturday 13 April, 2024 at Tilden Middle School. The school has designated this day as an environmental day and youth climate summit. Friday 26 April, 2024 is designated as Montgomery County's Arbor Day celebration. The location is to be determined.

Legislative Report

No legislative report was given at this meeting.

DNR Report

No DNR report was given at this meeting.

New Business

Natasha Shangold mentioned that she had been conducting spring warranty maintenance inspections for the City of Rockville. She excitedly added that she will be giving a presentation to Silver Spring Middle school for a total of 33 students. The presentation will perhaps feature tree cookies and focus on tree health in the context of invasive species.

Vince Fillah mentioned that he had been measuring trees with Treasurer Joli McCathran. Joli Mentioned that they found two large sycamore trees at Layhill Local Park, and that the

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information pertaining to these trees had been submitted to the State for review. Joli also mentioned that she had measured an impressive tree at the National Institute of Standards and Technology's grounds, which was the second largest known in the State of Maryland. Vince found a new state champion shingle oak tree.

Board Secretary Chris Barger explained to the board how the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service's Backyard Buffers Program operates. This program offers 25 free tree seedlings to qualifying landowners to plant adjacent to streams, drainage swales, wetlands, and ponds. The intent of the program is to establish and reinforce native plant communities in sensitive riparian areas throughout Maryland such to benefit water quality.

Joli McCathran mentioned that in lieu of a spring State Forestry Board Meeting, there will be a forestry board summit promoted and organized by the Maryland Forestry Foundation, the Maryland Association of Forestry Boards, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Each county's forest conservancy district board is allotted two representatives to attend. The summit is scheduled to occur on June 10 through June 12 at the Hilton Doubletree in Annapolis Maryland. The address is 210 Holiday Court in Annapolis, MD 21401.

Joe Howard announced that he will be absent from April's meeting due to conflict with a scheduled income-tax appointment. He noted it will be the first meeting that he will be absent from in many years. Carole Bermann thanked Joe for thoughtful gestures made toward Linda Pepe, including planting a tree and making a commemorative plaque for her contribution to the Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board.

Paula Perez noted that she had been busy conducting storm management after windy weather for the City of Rockville.

Board Secretary Chris Barger substituted for Acting Chairman Dan Landry, and adjourned the meeting at 2:37PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 9 April, 2024 at 1:30PM. The meeting will be located at the Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center's library at 5110 Meadowside Lane in Rockville, MD 20855.

Attendance:

Dan Landry, Acting Chairman
Joli McCathran, Board Treasurer
Joe Howard, Board Member
Mary Howard, Guest
Vince Fillah, Board Member
Carole Bergmann, Board Member
Natasha Shangold, Board Member
Paula Perez, Guest
Lee Derby, Board Member
Christopher Barger, Board Secretary