

Allegany County Forestry Board Minutes
February 20, 2024 from 9:00am – 11:00am
Pleasant Valley Western Regional Forestry Office
To promote the stewardship, conservation and
sustainable use of forest resources in Allegany County

Call to Order:

Chairman's Signature: _____

- The meeting was called to order by secretary Adam Miller at 9:05 am on February 20, 2024. Attendees included members: **Brad Metzger, Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun, Juls Wood, Darrel Williams, and Adam Miller**
- Special guest: **Sarah Llewellyn (MD extension)**
- Not in attendance: **Marie Miller, Steve Resh, Annie Stark & Ken Roberts**

Goals and Annual Work Plan for the Board to meet for 2024

- **Started** Develop the 2024 Goals and Annual Work Plan
- **Started** Raise funds to support Allegany County Forestry Board
- **Started** Bring in new members
- **Started** Hold at least 6 local Forestry Board meetings and 4 special events
- **Started** Complete all financial disclosure forms and Volunteer forms
- Attend arbor day event at LaVale Library to present historic tree cookie
- Find, interview, approve and financially support 2 students for NRCC
- **Started** Promote outreach for NRCC
- Support NRCC at camp with volunteers
- Facilitate the Forestry portion of the Envirothon
- Organize, plan and co-sponsor with Allegany Arts Council the photo contest at the Allegany County Fair
- Facilitate 2 PLT Workshops
- Facilitate Heritage Legacy Tree Program
- Support Big Tree Program
- Support Cumberland Watershed Plan Implementation
- Facilitate both webpage and Facebook links and keep them active and adaptive
- **Started** Conduct a county-wide 5th grade arbor day poster contest
- **Started** Review and approve urban tree planting grants such as MDOT & MUCFC

Note: Goals will be listed for the Forestry Board to track their success and act as a reminder of needed accomplishments for the 2024 Annual Work Plan. The word "completed" will be placed in the front of each goal once it has been accomplished.

Old Business

Review of Minutes:

Minutes were already reviewed electronically and sent into the public record.

Financial Activities:

Bernie went over any expenditures since the last meeting and advised that that statement and checkbook are balanced. The only expenses incurred were for Project Learning Tree books and posters and meeting refreshments. Francis advised the board that the LaVale Lions Club will donate \$500 for an NRCC student, however they are waiting for a letter from the board.

Financial disclosure forms / Volunteer forms

Adam advised that financial disclosure forms and volunteer forms need to be completed.

Website and Facebook Page

Adam updated the board that he will be creating a new Facebook page and will post the link on the old page saying it is no longer in use. He suggested having a digital media subcommittee in order to run the new Facebook page and new website. Marie, Annie, Adam, Juls, and Sarah (once appointed) all expressed interest in being on the committee. Bernie made a motion to create a new page and website and Brad seconded the motion. Adam will look into Wix (with Melissa) as an option to create and maintain our new website as well.

Urban Tree Planting Grants Spring 2024:

Adam updated the board that we have reviewed and approved 5 urban grants for this spring. These grants are a combination of MDOT and MUCFC. They include planting 118 trees and shrubs in urban areas around the county. Partners involved are LaVale Civic Association, City of Cumberland, Shriners Club, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, and the Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery.

5th Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest

Francis advised that he attended 8 elementary schools around the county to promote the contest. He also sent them a follow-up email as a reminder with appropriate links. Annie Stark helped arrange this with her connections to the school system. Entries are due by March 1, 2024 and will be voted on by board members. The top 3 county winners will receive monetary prizes with the county winner being entered into the state competition.

NRCC

Adam advised that enrollment is open and to spread the word to help find good candidates. He also advised the board that we received \$500 from Allegany Soil Conservation District to sponsor 1 student. We can now fully fund a minimum of 2 students going to camp. Francis advised that the LaVale Lions Club will donate \$500 dollars upon receiving a letter of request from the board.

Georges Creek Elementary School Tree Planting Opportunity

Juls and Adam advised that there weren't many updates available. Adam will reserve a packet of Backyard Buffer trees. Robbie and Sarah will be attending a 4H meeting next week and will work out the details of exactly where the trees will be planted and by how many students/volunteers.

Bob Wester Memorial Tree

Francis will draft a short saying to honor Bob and will present at the next meeting. Brad and Adam will reach out to the sign shops for quotes.

Forestry Board Summit

Adam advised the board of the upcoming forestry board summit in May 2024. He will keep them posted on details and he encouraged them to attend if interested and possible. Champ suggested mentioning the Liberty Tree Program at the meeting about the idea of donating 1 tree for each county forestry board across the state of Maryland.

National Road Tree Cookie to be presented on Arbor Day 2024

Francis updated the board that he and Brad are working on a rough draft write up which will be displayed with the tree cookie in the LaVale library. They will also be working on labeling the tree cookie to illustrate specific dates in the tree rings in the cross section of the cookie. Brad will be

working with the library to fill out a permission form to gain permission to display in the library. The suggestion was also made to cover the cookie with a plexiglass material for protection.

Liberty Tree

Seedling requests have been abundant, and orders are fully accounted for this spring. PA will be receiving 60 for their counties. Seeds have been collected and shipped to the state tree nursery for germination for future orders.

The group decided it would be a good idea to plant a liberty tree as a memorial for the late Sherry Frick. It was suggested that we plant the tree at the UMD Extension office which is where she worked. Brad made a motion to plant a liberty tree in honor of Sherry Frick and install a memorial plaque as a way to memorialize her. Juls seconded the motion and it passed. Sarah will check with the county to make sure it is ok to plant the tree on site.

New Business

Smokey's Reading Challenge

Adam shared the idea of partnering with the county library system to support Smokey's Reading Challenge in honor of Smokey's 80th Birthday this year. This program would be open to students of various ages who can complete activities related to fire prevention and forestry/nature for prizes. It was suggested that we provide Smokey trinkets as prizes. Brad has had contact with the library system for scheduling events and programming and Adam will reach out.

Arbor Day Event Table

Adam suggested the board might want to set up a table at an Arbor Day Event. Francis said that should be doable at the arbor day event at the LaVale Library where a liberty seedling will be dedicated and a historic tree cookie with historical information will be presented. There is a meeting on March 25th to schedule and work out the details of the event.

New Forestry Board Logo

Adam suggested getting a couple new designs for a new forestry board logo. The general consensus was to keep the old one, however the board would be open to looking at a few new design options and taking a vote.

Upcoming Events:

- PLT workshop at Frostburg State University 3/8/2024
- March Meeting 3/20/2024
- LaVale Civic Association at library to discuss Arbor Day event. 3/25/2024

Attended Events: (note, members need to attend at least 50% of yearly meetings to be in good standing)

- **January 18, 2024:** Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley and Google Meets. **Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Darrel Williams Juls Wood, Annie Stark, Francis Zumbrun and Adam Miller**
- **January 22, 2024:** Adam and Bernie met to work on the Forestry Board Facebook page. It was decided that a new page will be created. **Bernie Zlomek and Adam Miller**
- **February 9, 2024:** Champ attended 8 elementary schools across the county to promote the 5th grade arbor day poster contest. Annie helped to arrange this behind the scenes. **Francis Zumbrun and Annie Stark**

- **February 20, 2024:** Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley. **Brad Metzger, Bernie Zlomek, Darrel Williams Juls Wood, Sarah Llewellyn (guest), Francis Zumbrun and Adam Miller**