

Allegany County Forestry Board Minutes
March 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 March 20, 2024. Attendees included members: **Brad Metzger, Juls Wood, Marie Miller, Darrel Williams (virtual), and Adam Miller**
- Special guest:
- Not in attendance: **Bernie Zlomek, Steve Resh, Francis Zumbun, 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
- **Started** 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
- **Started** Facilitate 2 PLT Workshops
- Facilitate Heritage Legacy Tree Program
- Support Big Tree Program
- Support Cumberland Watershed Plan Implementation
- **Started** Facilitate both webpage and Facebook links and keep them active and adaptive
- **Completed** 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 provided a copy of the updated financial report. The only expenses incurred were for Project Learning Tree books and posters and meeting refreshments. Funds were received from MD Forestry Foundation for 4 Urban Tree grants this spring. The treasurer's report and bank account are balanced.

Urban Tree Planting Grants Spring 2024:

Adam confirmed through Bernie that we have received funding for the 4 urban grants. It was decided to go ahead and write out the checks to pay the respective entities so they could then buy trees and planting supplies. MD Forest Service staff are involved in all 4 plantings.

5th Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest

A total of 48 posters were received from elementary schools across the county, however only 41 entries met the criteria. After two rounds of voting, the top 3 posters were determined, and each student will receive a monetary prize, accordingly. The first-place poster will be entered into the state judging to be completed by the Governor's wife. All posters were sent to Annapolis. Marie asked the board if they had any suggestions, and Juls offered suggestions to help streamline the voting process next time around. In general, the board was happy with the contest and wishes to continue in the future. Darrell suggested that we do a High School version of the contest and then display the posters in a public location. Marie suggested including this in the Fair next year. This will be discussed in more detail in future meetings.

NRCC

Marie announced that we had 1 student application so far and that the interview was scheduled for 1pm on Wednesday 3/20/2024. Marie, Juls, and Adam will attend the interview. The interview has since been completed and the applicant has been accepted. Marie said that applications are still open and to keep spreading the word.

Website and Facebook Page

Marie updated the board that she had created a new Facebook page and is currently working on a website through Wix, which is a free version. Currently Adam and Marie have administrator privileges, but there was some discussion about adding a third page administrator, as well as page editors, which will ultimately be decided by the digital media subcommittee.

Georges Creek Elementary School Tree Planting Opportunity

Adam announced that he reserved a packet of trees for Georges Creek 4H group. Juls said that they are still working on find the best place to plant the trees.

Bob Webster Memorial Tree

Francis will draft a short saying to honor Bob and will present at the next meeting. Champ received a reasonable quote from Wanda's Clocks in LaVale.

Forestry Board Summit

Adam advised the board of the upcoming forestry board summit which is currently slated for June 10-12th. However, this conflicts with the MAC fire academy and that it may be re-scheduled. Adam will keep the board posted.

National Road Tree Cookie to be presented on Arbor Day 2024

Brad updated the board that we have 98% approval from LaVale Library to display the historic tree cookie which grew for over 300 years along old Route 40. He said they also plan to dedicate the Liberty Tree (which was planted in spring 2023) at the same time. The event date is scheduled for 4/20/24 at 1pm. He said there is also an open house for LaVale Civic Association on 3/25 at 6pm where he will have information about the liberty tree, and historic tree cookie. Brad also updated that he and Champ have the initial tree cookie write-up completed and are still working on the final draft.

Liberty Tree

Adam updated the group that the state nursery had a grand total of 175 Liberty Trees available. These trees will be delivered to green ridge seedling cooler on Friday 3/22/24. Francis will be shipping out Liberty Trees to all those who ordered for \$40 apiece. No update on the status of planting a Liberty Tree at the MD Extension office in memory of Sherry Frick. This will be brought up at the next meeting.

Project Learning Tree

Adam advised the group that another successful workshop was completed at Frostburg State University. There were 33 elementary education students that attended, as well as sponsors of the workshop. Reviews were well received, and it was an enjoyable event for all involved. Steve, Champ, Bernie, and Adam, as well as Julie and Kat (MD FS) and Dr. Barb Ornstein (FSU) assisted with facilitating the workshop.

Smokey's Reading Challenge

Marie and Adam led a discussion about the idea of hosting this challenge in cooperation with Allegany County library system in order to recognize Smokey's 80th birthday. Adam has reached out to the library but hasn't heard back. Brad will reach out to his contact with the library. Marie will send info to Brad in order to kick start the idea of this program. There was discussion about the best suited timeline for this and it was determined that over the summer might work best. This is pending availability within the library system. If that falls through, it was suggested that we hold a celebration at a state park like Rocky Gap or another public location in order to recognize Smokey's 80 birthday.

New Business

Cumberland Watershed

No new updates. Steve can update the board at the next meeting.

Envirothon

Adam had previously emailed the group about purchasing new field guides to offer as prizes for the winning forestry team at Envirothon. The board agreed to this, and Adam will look into buying some field guides on Amazon at a reasonable price. It was suggested to buy a couple of different types of guides in order to provide new content to repeat winning teams. Adam will present a list of options to the board before purchasing. Additionally, Juls asked about the idea of handing information on Forestry Camp at Evergreen Heritage Center as well as NRCC at Envirothon. Adam will ask the county science coordinator about this idea.

Photo Judging Rules change

Adam advised the board that he submitted the rules change to the Allegany Co. Fair board. This change states that all entries are to be used on a 3x5 piece of paper, not just an index card. Adam also reminded the board that judging will occur on a Sunday afternoon this year, as opposed to on Monday morning.

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

There was some brief discussion about having a competition with high school students to create a new logo for the Allegany County Forestry Board. Monetary prizes could be presented to the top 3 designs and the board could vote on retaining the new logo.

Upcoming Events:

- LaVale Civic Association at library to discuss Arbor Day event - 3/25/2024
- Arbor Day – liberty tree and tree cookie dedication at LaVale Library - 4/20/2024
- Envirothon competition at Rocky Gap SP - 4/24/2024
- 4 Urban Tree Plantings across the county – April 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**
- **March 8, 2024:** Facilitated a Project Learning Tree (PLT) Workshop at Frostburg State University (FSU). **Bernie Zlomek, Steve Resh, Champ Zumbrun, Adam Miller, Julie Conway & Kat Phillips.**
- **March 20, 2024:** March Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley Forestry Office. **Juls Wood, Marie Miller, Brad Metzger, Adam Miller and Darrell Williams (virtual)**
- **March 20, 2024:** Interviewed a potential NRCC student from Allegany County at Pleasant Valley Forestry Office. **Juls Wood, Marie Miller & Adam Miller**