

Allegheny County Forestry Board Minutes
May 14, 2024 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Pleasant Valley Western Regional Forestry Office
To promote the stewardship, conservation and
sustainable use of forest resources in Allegheny County

Call to Order:

Chairman's Signature: _____

- The meeting was called to order by Secretary Adam Miller at 2:00 pm on May 14, 2024. Attendees included members: **Juls Wood, Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek, Sarah Llewlyn, Annie Stark, Steve Resh (virtual), Darrel Williams, Francis Zumbrun (virtual), and Adam Miller**
- Special guest: **Katherine Phillips**
- Not in attendance: **Brad Metzger & Ken Roberts**

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

- **Completed** Develop the 2024 Goals and Annual Work Plan
- **Started** Raise funds to support Allegheny 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
- **Completed** Attend arbor day event at LaVale Library to present historic tree cookie
- **Completed** Find, interview, approve and financially support 2 students for NRCC
- **Completed** Promote outreach for NRCC
- Support NRCC at camp with volunteers
- **Completed** Facilitate the Forestry portion of the Envirothon
- Organize, plan and co-sponsor with Allegheny Arts Council the photo contest at the Allegheny County Fair
- **Started** Facilitate 2 PLT Workshops
- Facilitate Heritage Legacy Tree Program
- Support Big Tree Program
- **Started** 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 and updated that there has been a steady income from liberty tree sales. Donations were received for NRCC from the LaVale Lions Club and Russ Nolan, as well as from Mountain Loggers to support PLT. The only expenses incurred were for

urban tree planting projects and meeting refreshments. The treasurer's report and bank account are balanced with the exception of one small uncashed check.

National Road Tree Cookie to be presented on Arbor Day 2024

Champ provided an update that the Arbor Day event was a success at the LaVale library. A yellow poplar liberty tree was dedicated, and a national road tree cookie was presented and will be displayed near the library entrance. The cookie will be labeled with significant dates with historical relevance. Allegany College assisted in creating these labels.

5th Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest

The top 3 students in Allegany County were recognized with a certificate and a monetary prize. Photos were taken with the top 3 students and posted on our Facebook page. Unfortunately, the Allegany County winner did not make the top 3 in the state of Maryland. Recommendations discussed for next year's contest were as follows.

- Make a video to promote the contest and get this out to teachers by the late winter.
- Have a drop location for posters
- Make copies of posters and consent forms

NRCC

So far 4 students have been interviewed for NRCC and accepted into camp this year. 3 students are from Allegany County and 1 is from Bedford County PA. All have interviewed and should be a good fit for camp.

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

Sarah assisted with this planted through the county 4H program. 25 BYB seedlings were planted on private property near Georges Creek. Autumn Simons was the lead point of contact for the 4H.

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

Darrel Williams and Steve Resh are enrolled to attend the summit. Juls Wood also has an interest in attending. The board discussed our plan to present 1 liberty tree seedling for every board in the state, as well as 1 for the secretary of DNR and assistant secretary of DNR. Steve volunteered to make this presentation during the summit. Adam will not be able to attend due to a conflict with the MAC fire academy.

Liberty Tree

Champ updated the group that he has sold and shipped more than 10 orders for liberty trees with more to come. All remaining liberty trees have been potted and are being stored and watered at Green Ridge shop. Liberty trees will also be given out at the Forestry Board Summit for each county of the state along with the secretary of DNR and assistant secretary of DNR.

Urban Tree Planting Grants Spring 2024:

Katherine Phillips provided an update saying that all 4 projects were successfully completed this spring. MD Forest Service was involved with and provided technical assistance with these plantings. 105 trees were planted across all 4 projects in total.

New Business

Cumberland Watershed

Steve advised there is a meeting coming up and that they have started a new timber sale, following the forest stewardship plan. Steve will keep the board updated at future meetings.

Envirothon

The forestry component of the Envirothon was successfully administered at the county Envirothon at Rocky Gap state park. Marie purchased 5 field guides to give out to the team with the highest forestry score. This year, every student was given a folder with info on NRCC, forestry 101 camp at Evergreen Heritage Center, and Allegany College forestry program.

Smokey's Reading Challenge

Marie reached out to Rocky Gap State Park, and confirmed that they will partner with us to do a Smokey's Reading Challenge this summer in order to celebrate Smokey's 80th birthday. Marie is working on creating a check list of events and activities that students can complete in order to receive prizes. Small prizes of Smokey Swag (80th birthday stuff) will be given out to all kids who complete the lists. It was suggested to have a Smokey event at Rocky gap in which Smokey himself will be present, and a drawing would be held to give out larger prizes for children of various age groups.

Member Recruitment

The board voted on and approved Sarah as a member of the forestry board. Adam will be sending her an application to be filled out. There was some discussion about adding another member to the board. Slater Hafer will be invited to the next meeting.

Volunteer Hour Reporting

Marie and Adam will be working on creating a Google Forms sheet for the board to track their volunteer hours at forestry board related events. A hard copy hand-written log sheet could also be created as a non-electronic option. All board members will fill out these forms after their participation in events.

Cumberland Tree Initiative Street Tree Inventory

Kat said that the Cumberland shade tree commission is working on a tree initiative in order to track street trees in the city of Cumberland. Marie offered to assist with this by having ACM forestry students complete their GIS projects on street trees in certain sections of the city. It was suggested that the city be broken down into 4 sections and inventoried over a 4-year period. Marie will work with Kat on this project moving forward.

Upcoming Events:

- Forestry Board Summit Meeting 6/10/24 – 6/12/24
- Summer meeting / cookout 6/20/24
- State Envirothon 6/12/24 – 6/13/24
- Forestry 101 Camp at Evergreen Heritage Center 6/17/24 – 6/28/24

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**
- **March 25, 2024:** LaVale Civic Association open at the LaVale Library to display historic tree cookie, promote Forestry 101 camp at Evergreen, and to provide info and/or materials for tree planting event. **Juls Wood, Brad Metzger, and Champ Zumbrun**
- **April 1, 2024:** Interviewed a potential NRCC student from Allegany County at Pleasant Valley Forestry Office. **Juls Wood, Champ Zumbrun, Marie Miller & Adam Miller**
- **April 13, 2024:** LaVale Civic Association tree give-a-way and tree planting event. 44 trees **Brad Metzger**
- **April 15, 2024:** Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery tree planting event. 16 trees. **Adam Miller, Kat Phillips, Julie Conway & Melissa Nash**
- **April 20, 2024:** LaVale Arbor celebration event where tree cookie and a liberty tree were publicly dedicated. **Brad Metzger and Champ Zumbrun**
- **April 22, 2024:** Cumberland Arbor Day Event. 12 trees were planted. **Adam Miller**
- **April 24, 2024:** Hosted forestry component of Allegany County Envirothon at Rocky Gap. **Bernie Zlomek, Champ Zumbrun, and Adam Miller**
- **April 30, 2024:** Completed a riparian buffer planting of 500 seedlings at Allegany College with approximately 35 highschool and college students. **Adam Miller, Marie Miller, Julie Conway, Kat Phillips, and Annie Stark**
- **May 6, 2024:** Interviewed a potential NRCC student from Allegany County at Pleasant Valley Forestry Office. **Marie Miller and Adam Miller**
- **May 10, 2024:** Completed a tree planting at the Cumberland Episcopal Church. 33 trees were planted. **Adam Miller, Kat Phillips & Julie Conway**
- **May 14, 2024:** May Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley Forestry Office. **Juls Wood, Marie Miller, Sarah Llewellyn, Adam Miller, Bernie Zlomek, Annie Stark, Darrell Williams, Steve Resh (virtual) and Champ Zumbrun (virtual)**
- **May 16, 2024:** Interviewed a potential NRCC student from Bedford County, PA at Pleasant Valley Forestry Office. **Marie Miller and Adam Miller**