

Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 9:00 am-11:00 am
Western Regional Forestry Office
14110 Pleasant Valley Road, Flintstone, MD 21530

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Chair Marie Miller.

Members Present: Marie Miller, Brad Metzger, Champ Zumbrun, Bernie Zlomek, Juls Wood, Sarah Llewellyn, and Adam Miller

Members Not in Attendance: Darrel Williams, Steve Resh, and Anne Stark

Special Guests: Slater Hafer

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 Allegany County Forestry Board
- **Started** Bring in new members
- **Started** Hold at least 6 local Forestry Board meetings and 4 special events
- **Completed** 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
- **Completed** 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
- **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
- **Completed** 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:

Approval of the August meeting minutes was completed. Brad moved a motion to approve and Juls seconded the motion. The vote to approve passed.

Volunteer Hours (Since last meeting): 41 hours total Brad – 12, Bernie – 11, Champ – 8, Juls – 10

Financial Activities:

Bernie provided a copy of the updated financial report. He stated that the checkbook and the bank statement matched. A check for \$13.50 was written to the DNR for mulch for the fall tree planting grant. Several donations were received and deposited for the PLT and the Liberty Tree program.

FOR 101 Camp:

Juls provided a recap of how the inaugural Forestry camp went at Evergreen Heritage Center this summer. They started with 11 total students and 9 completed the camp. Students were given a forestry knowledge test prior to and after camp and there was significant improvement! Juls also mentioned that there would be a Real-World Forestry training coming soon for college kids, which is to be sponsored by DNR. He will keep the group posted on info.

Smokey's Reading Challenge:

Smokey's reading challenge was not executed this summer, partially due to lack of participation by Rocky Gap State Park who had agreed to partner for the event. This can be an idea for the future.

Fall Urban Grant:

Adam updated the group that 3 trees and 3 bags of mulch were purchased and planted at Pleasant Valley Regional Office. These trees replaced trees that had previously died. Also advised that there would likely be more grants in the spring pass through the board.

NRCC:

Marie said that new brochures and advertising will be done prior to next years camp. Again, 2024 camp was a success and Adam shared the thank-you letters from the 4 Allegany County students.

Liberty Tree:

Champ stated that he would be collecting seed for future liberty trees at St. John's College within the next couple of weeks. He will be working with Davey Tree Care to get a bucket truck to access the seed.

New Business:

Mike Minnick Donation:

The group was able to donate \$130 total out of pocket to be donated to a scholarship in memory of Mike. The idea was mentioned to match the \$130 to send to Hospice Care of Garrett County, which was also a charity near and dear to Mike. Champ made the motion to support both causes and Brad seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Big Tree Program:

The idea was mentioned to host a big tree measuring day / field day for the board. In general, the group was in favor, however we realized that the weather would be turning sooner rather than later so the idea was tabled until next spring. However, some members would still like to measure trees on their own time. Adam will send group current nomination forms, as well as a permission form to be completed by the landowner. Adam will also create a list of big trees to be measured in the future.

PLT:

Fall PLT Workshop will be held on October 25th at FSU. Several members of the DNR were invited as special guests, including Secretary Kurtz. All sponsors were also invited to attend. No word back from the Cacapon institute on attendance. They were previously interested in joining the workshop. Bernie made a motion for the board to pay for the PLT facilitators/guests' lunch at the workshop and Juls seconded it. The vote passed unanimously.

5th Grade poster contest:

The group discussed some options which will better reach students across the county. There was also some discussion on establishing drop off locations for poster collections. It was suggested to just use each school as a collection point. Sarah suggested that we create a short video or flyer promoting the contest in order to increase interest.

High/Middle School Art Poster Contest:

The board has been discussing the idea of creating a poster contest for high and middle schoolers with monetary prizes. There was a brief discussion on creating a flyer/video to hand out to science and art teachers across the county. Also, some discussion on partnering with Allegany Arts Council or the Ferleman Art Gallery on sponsoring prizes. No firm decisions were made, and it was tabled til the next meeting.

Website/Facebook:

Adam reminded the board to send a headshot and brief biography to post on the website. And also reminded them to provide information related to programs to post on the website (Champ- Liberty Tree, Bernie- PLT). Marie plans to have a work-study student work on the website this fall.

New logo

Brad was in contact with someone in the library system about creating a new logo to be placed on our historical tree cookie at the LaVale library. He presented a couple of different options and board members were in favor of using them.

Upcoming Events:

PLT- October 25th

Liberty Tree seed collection – End of October

Envirothon Training – November 6th

November Board meeting – November 20th

Potential New Member:

Slater Hafer attended the meeting as a guest and a potential future member of the board. Brad also reminded the group that a member of TNC is interested in joining the board. Most likely Debra Landau, and she will be invited to future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10am.

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 high school 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**
- **June 10-12, 2024:** Forestry Board Summit Meeting. Handed out Liberty Trees. **(Steve Resh & Darrell Williams)**
- **June 20, 2024:** Summer picnic/meeting at Darrell's house. **(Bernie Zlomek, Annie Stark, Steve Resh, Darrell Williams, Francis Zumbrun, Adam Miller, and Kat Phillips)**
- **June 17-28, 2024:** Forestry 101 Camp at Evergreen Heritage Center. Juls wood was the camp director and Adam attended as a speaker at the camp. **Juls Wood, Adam Miller, Marie Miller**
- **July 14, 2024-** Allegany County Fair Photo Judging. **Sarah Llewellyn, Anne Stark, Adam Miller, Champ Zumbrun, Brad Metzger, Marie Miller**
- **July 21-27, 2024-** NRCC. Brad, Steve, and Adam were speakers. Marie was Curriculum director. **Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Adam Miller, Marie Miller**
- **August 21, 2024-** Meeting and Photo Judging Award presentation. **Marie Miller, Champ Zumbrun, Brad Metzger, Bernie Zlomek**
- **September / October 2024 –** Assisted with Outdoor School for 5th graders in Allegany County. **Champ Zumbrun & Sarah Llewellyn.**
- **October 16, 2024 –** October Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley Regional Forestry Office. **Marie Miller, Champ Zumbrun, Brad Metzger, Bernie Zlomek, Juls Wood, Sarah Llewellyn, Adam Miller, and Slater Hafer**