

Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 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 9:07 am by Chair, Marie Miller.

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

Members Not in Attendance: Deborah Landau and Anne Stark

Special Guests: Ted Hoxie

Goals and Annual Work Plan for the Board to meet for 2025

- **Completed** Develop the 2025 Goals and Annual Work Plan
- **Started** Raise funds to support Allegany County Forestry Board
- **Started** Maintain current membership and welcome new members as appropriate
- **Started** Hold at least 6 local Forestry Board meetings and 4 special events
- **Started** Complete all financial disclosure forms and update Volunteer forms as needed
- **Started** Find, interview, approve and financially support 2 students for NRCC
- **Started** Promote outreach for NRCC
- Support NRCC at camp with volunteers
- **Started** Facilitate the Forestry portion of the Envirothon
- **Started** plan and co-sponsor with Allegany Arts Council the photo contest at the Allegany County Fair
- **Started** Facilitate 2 PLT Workshops
- **Started** Facilitate Liberty Tree Program and implement a Liberty Tree planting at the Allegany County Courthouse to be coordinated with July 4th event.
- **Started** Support Big Tree Program
- **Started** Support Cumberland Watershed Plan Implementation
- **Started** 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
- **Started** Initiate planning to commemorate celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary with a representative big tree and public outreach event for 2026
- **Started** Conduct a middle and high school art contest in combination with the County Fair
- **Started** Support Real World Forestry program at Evergreen Heritage Center

Note: Goals will be listed for the Forestry Board to track their success and act as a reminder of needed accomplishments for the 2025 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 November meeting minutes was completed. Juls made a motion to approve, and Bernie seconded the motion. The vote to approve passed.

Volunteer Hours (Since last meeting): 14 hours total Brad – 1, Bernie – 3, Champ – 8, and Juls –

A fillable form will be available starting in 2025 to track volunteer hours. This will be shared with the board and posted on the website.

Financial Activities:

Bernie provided a copy of the updated financial report. A donation was made to Garrett County Hospice on behalf of Mike Minnick for \$130. The board was reimbursed by Allegany College of MD for PLT books. Marie was reimbursed for Envirothon books as well.

New Business:

2025 Urban planting grants:

Ted provided an overview of 3 proposed planting projects for spring of 2025. Mt. Ridge Highschool – 111 trees, Glendenning Park – 9 trees, and Frostburg dog park – 6 trees. The projects are being funded by MDOT and MUCFC grants. Applications are due to the board by February 15th.

Updated Contact List / Volunteer Forms / Financial Disclosure Forms:

Adam provided the group with an updated contact and asked for any edits. He also sent volunteer forms to Sarah and Deb, as forms were already completed by other members. Adam also reminded the board to please complete financial disclosure forms and to notify him.

Big Tree Program:

The board tentatively plans to have a big tree measuring field day during the week of May 12-16. Adam informed the board that we need to re-measure 25 big trees since its been 10 years. Adam is working with John Bennett to get a list of the trees which need measured. There are also about 6-8 new big trees the board would like to measure in 2025. The board supported the idea of having ACM forestry students assist with measuring big trees. Another field day for measuring big trees may occur in June or September.

Statewide Forestry Meeting:

Adam advised the group that the statewide meeting will be held at Greenbriar State Park on March 6th. He asked folks to confirm their interest in attending and added that there will be an option to carpool down with Garrett County board members. Steve Resh expressed interest in attending. Sarah Llewellyn also expressed interest in attending, but virtually.

5th Grade poster contest:

Marie put together an information packet for teachers to hand out to students pertaining to the 5th grade poster contest. Additionally, Sarah and Champ will work on a video promoting the contest which teachers can share with students. The board decided to move the due date for poster collections back to February 12th and will vote on the winners at the meeting on February 19th. Posters are due at the state office in Annapolis by March 3rd. The top 3 county winners will be awarded a monetary prize which is sponsored by the board and a local art gallery.

NRCC

Adam and Champ informed the board that the Allegany Soil Conservation District and the LaVale Lions Club will each donate \$500 to sponsor a total of 2 students to attend camp in 2025. Marie informed the group that planning meetings / webinars will be upcoming and anyone who is interested in helping can attend. This year's camp will be the week of July 20-26. Juls stated that he has a great candidate for this year from the Flintstone area. He will get her an application soon.

High/Middle School Art Poster Contest:

The board plans to conduct a forestry art contest for both middle and high school students in combination with the Allegany County Fair Forestry photo contest. Adam will talk to fair officials to

see if it can be added to the fair book. Adam will also talk to the Ferleman Art Gallery to see if they would sponsor monetary prizes. Methods to reach students were tabled til the next meeting once we determine if it will be an option to add it to the fair.

Liberty Tree:

Champ provided an update on the Liberty Tree Program and stated that all available trees were accounted for. He also has a backlog of interest for future years. Hoping for successful germination from the state nursery. Champ also stated that he got permission from St. Johns College to graft the tree in order to speed up production of seedlings. Champ and Brad had a zoom meeting with a Maryland Preservation Group that is interested in 30 – 40 trees. Maryland 250th group is also interested in 40 trees. Champ and Brad will plant a Liberty Tree at the Allegany County courthouse and hope to have a public event in combination with the Library near Arbor Day.

Website/Facebook:

Marie 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 will send out separate reminder emails to each member.

New enrollment:

Deb Landau has officially completed her application to become a new board member. Both she and Sarah Llewellyn are awaiting official letters of appointment along with certificates. Also, Slater Hafer plans to attend future meetings and consider putting his application in for early 2025 as well.

Upcoming Events:

February Board meeting/poster judging – February 19th
5th grade Posters due – February 12th

The meeting adjourned at 11:05am.

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

- **January 15, 2025:** Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley. **Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Darrel Williams, Juls Wood, Sarah Llewellyn, Francis Zumbrun, Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek and Adam Miller**
- **January 13, 2025:** Brad and Champ attended a virtual meeting with MD 250 group to talk about getting Liberty Trees. **Brad Metzger and Champ Zumbrun**