

Baltimore County Forestry Board Meeting

February 10, 2025

Attendees: Glenn Ferenschak, Julie Wadsworth, Linda Barker, Richard Anderson, Marc Lipnick, Kaitlyn Paulchell, Jordan Brown, & Nathan House

Minutes: Glenn moved to accept the minutes. Julie seconded the motion.

Treasurers Report: Richard shared with Nathan that there is currently _____ in the primary account.

Workshop: Glenn shared the current signup count is 60, less than this time last year. 100-125 attendees is the Oregon Ridge Lodge's total capacity depending the final number of chairs that can fit per table (7-8). Glenn asked board members to tell the speakers when the doors of the lodge open and to ask what presentation equipment is needed and what the presenters want to eat for lunch. The board discussed how to get better name tags. There will be enough pens and folders available. The board discussed which flyers and trifolds will be out on the table at the workshop. Ms. Oldham still has the NRCC display, but she will return it in the next several weeks. MFS will get the display to the workshop and set it up. The Tree Farm organization gave a \$250 donation; Richard will write them a thank you card. Nathan or Rob will bring the Tree Farm display. MFS will also bring Smokey Bear and Firewise goodies. Birds Unlimited will be selling to the right of the stage. Kaitlyn will share information about the workshop with a local garden club.

5 Million Trees Initiative: Kaitlyn with MFS shared that the MDOT tree planting grant application discussed at last meeting has now grown to 5 properties in the same neighborhood. There is no HOA for this neighborhood, so the property owners would still need forestry board support for the application. Kaitlyn passed around the tentative plan and maps for the proposed project. Shrubs will be part of the planting where spacing is tight. Nathan will help provide a final review of the planting plan.

Kaitlyn will table the Maple Sugaring event at Oregon Ridge this weekend with another 5 Million Tree person. She'll have some forestry board flyers on the table in addition to planting educational handouts.

Schoolyard Forests Initiative: Jordan Brown, Community Forestry Coordinator for MFS, gave out flyers to the board and shared that the Schoolyard Forests Initiative is working with MAEOE to offer workshops and planting opportunities for schools. One of the end goals is to help schools qualify for the Green Schools program. One part of the program involves providing learning opportunities. For example, Ryan Niemi with MFS has a portable sawmill to help demonstrate green job opportunities to school kids. There are different grant

programs including MUCFC, MDOT, & Forest Conservation Act funds which can be used for tree plantings. Glenn and other board members shared that a similar program they used to implement for planting trees at schools eventually ran into many challenges, e.g., limits on species, the requirement of a 22 page application, and grounds crews not wanting to maintain the trees. Implementation eventually became overly cumbersome. Jordan shared that the new program is still being developed, but there should be no out-of-pocket costs for participating schools. Jordan has experience with schoolyard plantings in Baltimore. Jordan and Kaitlyn both will work to support the new program.

NRCC: Student interviewed last year missed last year's camp due to a broken arm will attend the camp this year. The twins who applied last year have not responded to Glenn's recent message.

Old Growth: Mark and Linda wrote up an application for Hemlock Gorge to the Old Growth Network. The ceremony to officially add Hemlock Gorge's to the network will be on March 11th.

Misc.:

- Glenn reminded board members to give ethics forms to Nathan once completed.
- Glenn shared that 400 chestnut seedlings have homes already. There may be less than 400 available for program participants if survival is poor at the nursery.
- Nathan shared that dozens of homeowners have already expressed interest in backyard buffers this year. Once the sorting situation for backyard buffers is determined, Nathan will send details to all board members.

NEXT MEETING: Cub Hill Ranger Station 3/4/2025 @ 1 pm

With no further business to discuss, the board voted to end the meeting @ 3:26 pm

