

Baltimore County Forestry Board Meeting

May 20, 2025

Attendees: Glenn Ferenschak, Kaitlyn Paulchell, Julie Wadsworth, Richard Anderson, Marc Lipnick, Kaitlyn Paulchell, Vic Sanborn (call-in), Sarah Lord, & Nathan House

Minutes: After board members in attendance viewed the minutes, a motion to approve the minutes passed unopposed.

Treasurers Report: Richard shared with Nathan that there is currently \$_____ in the primary account, excluding the grant funds for MUCFC and MDOT. Richard reimbursed Nathan for the North Point State Battlefield planting Home Depot materials.

Workshop: Glenn shared that Oregon Ridge will charge \$893 to use their room. This is a significant increase from last year, but there is not a better venue option available locally that would be spacious enough and more affordable. A \$60 permit is needed to sell anything. The board agreed that at this point there is not a good reason to get the permit. Vic asked there to be a greater emphasis on forests at next year's workshop, and to have a more specific theme. She shared suggestions for topics about mitigating forest loss including:

- *Reforestation Law: This law mandates the replacement of forests removed for road construction.*
- *Forest Management Practices: Sustainable forest management practices, like selective logging and prescribed burns, can help maintain forest health and productivity.*
- *Community Involvement: Community-based forest management and reforestation programs can help engage local populations in protecting forests.*
- *Policy and Legislation: Strong environmental regulations and policies can help protect forests from unsustainable development and resource extraction.*

Kaitlyn suggested Baltimore Tree Trust is a group who could speak about their involvement in community based forestry. Sarah Lord shared some personal history she has with the organization, both good and bad. Recently there has been an infusion of new leadership at the Baltimore Tree Trust. Marc shared that Paula Becker would be willing to present again. The board agreed she should be booked now. One participant at this year's workshop is interested in hearing about work done on restoring the American Chestnut and other issues effecting the health of the forest. Nathan emailed Chelsea Dowell at MDA to ask if someone at her office would be willing to speak about forest pests. Glenn asked board members to reach out to potential speakers before the next meeting in June.

5 Million Trees Initiative: Nathan and Kaitlyn gave an update on the status of the MUCFC and MDOT Grant plantings this spring. Between the 3 plantings there is expected to be roughly \$1000 left over in funds. Kaitlyn can inquire if leftover funds can may go toward planting maintenance, or if it all needs to be returned.

In addition to all of the Chestnut seedlings sorted by the board being handed out, 130 backyard Buffer packets were distributed for Baltimore County and City (roughly 25 seedlings were in each packet).

NRCC: The board still hopes to get students who attend the camp to return and present on their experiences. The most recent student interviewed by the board, Layla, made a great impression. Sarah Lord inquired if the board makes a specific effort to share NRCC camp info to underserved students in the county. Glenn said that ever since board members retired from teaching, it has been more difficult to advertise to students.

Annapolis Forestry Board Meeting: Glenn attended a meeting in Annapolis about upcoming changes to forestry boards. He learned that funding for forestry in Maryland has been cut here and there, but thankfully only 10% of the overall funding is federal. The governor is supportive of forestry and has committed to continuing his support for programing. Glenn shared that the banking situation for the board will change, including the name of the account. The state will create a standard form board treasurers can take to their bank to change the name of the account and give the state access. There may be a new option for making payments electronically from the account as well. Richard wants to know who will pay for the new checks after the name change.

Big Tree: The board formally states their appreciation of Marc and Linda's efforts to support a well-executed (and to-be televised) Big Tree Hike at Hampton Mansion on 4/30. Richard said the data they shared was excellent!

NEXT MEETING: Cub Hill Ranger Station 6/10/25 @ 1 pm

With no further business to discuss, Richard motioned to end the meeting and Julie seconded. The meeting ended @3:09 pm