

CARROLL COUNTY FORESTRY BOARD MEETING MINUTES-updated 11/1/21

DATE: Wednesday, October 6, 2021

PLACE: Westminster Senior Center. 125 Stoner Ave., Westminster, MD 21157

TIME: 6:15 PM to 8 PM

The Forestry Board conducted a hybrid in person/ remote business meeting. All in-person attendees wore face masks per COVID protocol.

- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Spaur at 6:15PM
- **Attendance** – Chair Chris Spaur, Vice-chair Laura O’Callaghan, Treasurer Geary Schwemmer, Secretary Donna Davis, Board members Roland Fish, Bill Christopher, interns Sydney Barrett, Danielle Wendt and Meredith Kelly, Careers Connection Coordinator Melinda Ditzen. Via Google Meets: guest Jean-Marc Henriette.

Administration-

- **Review/Approval of September 2021 meeting minutes:** Chris Spaur placed an amendment to the minutes to read “Board to revisit the member survey and review the mission and goals of the Board”, and to correct the meeting date as Sept. 7. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Laura O’Callaghan and seconded by Geary Schwemmer. The minutes were passed as amended.
- **Treasury Report by:** Treasurer Geary Schwemmer-
 - No additional account activity since the September meeting report> Account balance as of the September 30, 2021 statement: \$3,868.61.
 - Geary will compile a budget report based on historical spending to aid with planning.
- **Book Purchase:** The Board discussed earmarking funds to purchase books for the interns. Laura O’Callaghan made a motion to authorized \$150.00 (\$50/intern) to purchase forestry/tree books of their choice. Chris Spaur made a motion to set aside \$60.00/intern for a total of \$180. Geary Schwemmer seconded. The motion to set aside \$180.00 for intern book purchases was passed.

Programs/Updates:

- **Fallfest:** Intern Meredith Kelly reviewed the “What Tree Is This” game she created as a Fallfest activity for the Forestry Board tent. The game includes three challenge levels to test the players tree knowledge: easy, medium and hard. Interns Danielle Wendt and Sydney Barrett will create info pages for each tree species that will be available for sale. They showed the Board the updates they made to the tabletop display. Sydney ordered several agroforestry educational flyers from the USDA FS for the Fallfest table.

- **MD Big Tree Report by Geary Schwemmer:** Geary, Bryan Shumaker, Melinda Ditzen and Meredith Kelly spent several hours in the field completing nine new tree measurements and one re-measurement. Eight of the trees are county champions. Roland Fish asked if Geary needed a program budget. Geary mentioned he will need a new tape measure in the near future. He currently has three hypsometers, one of which he donated ½ of the cost of purchase for the Carroll Forestry Board use. The others were purchased by DNR for the Allegheny and Frederick County Big Tree programs. Geary is updating a Big Tree brochure for Carroll. The Board approved funds for printing copies of the brochure.
- **Wakefield Valley Park update:** Chris Spaur provided an update on the Wakefield Valley Park and the preliminary meeting he and Donna attended with the County Resource Management team, Westminster Parks and Recreation Director and Healthy Forests Healthy Waters program manager. The attendees reviewed a draft map showing the proposed location for forest buffer establishment and discussed some possibilities for collaboration. The likelihood of Board involvement with providing technical and economic assistance in planting forest buffers on the park looks promising. Another meeting will be planned.
- **Preliminary Workshop Planning:** Chris Spaur provided an update on the availability of pavilions that have electric, bathroom access and room for a larger group. The municipal pavilions look the most promising. County and state pavilions do not allow amplified sound. Workshop planning will be continued during the November Board meeting.
- **Website:** Laura O'Callaghan suggested some improvements/updates to the website. She will plan to meet with webmaster Alison Schilling.
- **New Business:** The Board received an email from Ashley Traut, Senior Advisor to the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition. The goal of the coalition is "to help create a robust, resilient and equitable green infrastructure network throughout Central Maryland, including Carroll County." They recently secured a sizable grant. Mr. Traut would like to visit at an upcoming Board meeting to share more about the organization and discuss opportunities to collaborate. The Board agreed to invite him to the November meeting, or to a future meeting. Donna Davis will send a reply.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 3, 6:15PM (door will be monitored from 6PM to 6:15)– Westminster Senior Center conference room. Entrance to the center is through the side door. The doors are locked after 4:30, so a Board member must monitor the lobby to let meeting attendees into the building. If you arrive after 6:15, please call or text Donna's cell at 443-243-4014, so someone can let you in.

Action Items: All Board members still need to develop a list of possible local sponsors.