

CARROLL COUNTY FORESTRY BOARD - MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, 20 November 2025

PLACE: ZOOM virtual

TIME: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Attending: Fred Dickinson, Steve McDaniel, Geary Schwemmer, Marie Walters, Bill Warburton, Jamie Weaver

Previous meeting: October 23, 2025

- Reviewed action items from October minutes. Bill supplied some example logo products from CafePress before the meeting. We discussed those, as well as stickers. Jamie provided a link for stickers. <https://www.stickermule.com/> For mugs & totes, Fred suggested also checking Shutterfly prices for good sales in the holiday season. Reiterated October decision that we won't buy any merch in bulk until we have an event planned. In any case, **Bill** should proceed with asking Kimmy what she might like, more or less settled on mug or tote since stickers need large minimum order. Discussed budget for Kimmy gift but unfortunately the Secretary didn't drive that to closure so let's say under \$50. :-) Fred looked at other events for tabling as documented in Oct minutes, Hashawha syruping not suitable, may Flower Fest too far away, talked with Charlotte's Quest folks at EnviroFest, doesn't seem a good fit in general.
- Approved October minutes for publishing (10_23_2025_CCFB_minutes.doc).

New Business:

- Wakefield Food Forest update. Fred attended today and planted several shrubs/trees. Fun! Met Gary Walton, owner of Digging in the Dirt, the landscape contractor doing the work. Met Edward Sinnes, Forests Projects Coordinator from Alliance for the Chesapeake. Discussed eventual trail signage with him and Mika Stringham the Westminster City project coordinator, gave them some sample costs as received from Marc Lipnick last year, time frame of signage is on hold until the Park paths are redone, but Edward might have some funding for it. Also talked to a couple fellow volunteers about our Board as well as Gary ... some interest, we'll see.
- Christmas dinner meeting. Fred will check with O'Lordans, that was good last year and send around a headcount request next week. It will be our normal third Thursday 12/18 at 6 PM, spouses, friends, possible Board members ... all welcome. Little business, mostly fun.
- Reminder, Geary appears on your TV on 11/22 at 8pm on MPT: "Growing into Greatness" Big Tree Documentary presented by Dr. Robert Lemieux, McDaniel College

Programs:

- BYB. Jamie update... joint venture with Baltimore County Project Forester, total 7000 seedlings, 7 species, 1000 each, we'll do 25/bundle = 280 recipients. Southern Red Oak and Flowering Dogwood not available from Ayton nursery so those 2000 sourced separately.
- Arbor Day Poster Contest – everything is posted on DNR site, <https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/Arbor-Day-Poster-Contest.aspx>. Fred contacted list of teachers who participated last year to give them a planning heads up and PDFs. Also asked their recommendation for the prizes Bryan suggested and we approved at April 2025 meeting (but didn't implement) and one response so far said definitely do

money, 5th graders would love that. We thought \$50, \$30, \$20 for 1st thru 3rd prize. Private schools were mentioned, no action assigned. **Fred** plans to contact other 5th grade teachers from the 21 Carroll County public schools that have 5th grade, will contact Christy Farver, the Director of elementary schools to check in and chat about the program.

- Big Tree – no tree measurements since last meeting, pasting Geary's written update here: State Level Big Tree Committee Meetings: November 17 - Agenda topics included the State Forest Tree Hunt Contest (2 trees nominated in Green Ridge State Forest, but neither large enough to qualify. Many new trees registered in State Parks, but don't count for prize \$. Thinking of doing a contest for the largest White Oak, again confined to State Forests.); Multi-trunk tree policy revisions (details still being worked); State Big Tree Calendar (maybe by end of November?); Big Tree Program to come under Forestry Foundation (similar to the County Boards).
- NRCC – no update since October.

Old/Other Business:

- Distributed documents with this meeting notice from the MAFB Fall meeting on 10/30 that Fred and Geary attended, no questions/discussion about those.
- Reviewed Fred's fundraising and recruitment “seed planting”, contacts at County Bureau of Resource mgmt, Commissioner Guerin, UMd Forestry course professor etc.
- Big Tree calendar status mentioned above. If we get them by end of November, currently few ideas about how to get them to the public where we could sell them to raise NRCC scholarship \$\$\$. One possibility would be to look into various Christmas market and downtown events throughout the county but we need the calendars first and then we could do an online email consensus about how much to sell for. \$15? Looks unlikely but will monitor.
- Distributed the new Forestry Board Annual Work Plan for 2026 template before the meeting. Fred reviewed it briefly and asked for some thoughts to share at December dinner meeting. MFS is planning to release an update next week but for what it is, Fred thought it was pretty solid.
- Emma Beck, the new Field Officer for MFF, requested individual meetings with all Forestry Board chairpersons in the state and Fred's is scheduled for Monday 11/24. She's working to get a handle on who is on all the Boards, our perceived strengths and opportunities for improvement, challenges, etc, activities we're involved in and so on.
- Treasurer's Report, high level \$135 income from EnviroFest sales and donations that Geary and Fred tabled with Dylan, ending balance \$1428.16.
- List of Board members – short discussion around if anyone other than Fred and Bill whose 1 year interim terms expire January 2026 are certified members. Didn't look like it. Fred checked with Emma today and her MFS contacts didn't appear to have a record.
- High tunnel – Jamie gave an overview of plans, funding and construction assistance in place an requested plan review by those interested on Board. **Jamie** will get data off internal servers to share in some form.

Happy Thanksgiving!