



Chair – Jim Arnold
Secretary – Dakota Durcho

Frederick County Forestry Board Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2025

Members Present: M. Kay, T. Anderson, K. Schoonover, C. Farmer, B Phillips, J. Arnold, D. Durcho
Guests: K. Kyde

Treasurer's Report: The beginning balance for April was \$7,744.57. There were no deposits or withdrawals over the past month. A total of \$0.16 interest was accrued, however. The new balance is \$7,744.73.

Jim motioned to support the pesticide refresher training with needed funds with the expectation of being reimbursed (plus some). The vote passed unanimously.

Since the tree planting workshop was cancelled, Mike will follow up with FCC so that we can receive a refund for the venue reservation.

Logging Site Exams: No logging site applications have been received over the past month.

Outreach:

1. Community

1. Unfortunately, the board decided to cancel the tree planting workshop that was planned for May 15th. On May 1st, two weeks before the meeting, attendance had only reached 26 (most of which were tree planting professionals). Despite significant time spent on event prep and outreach we did not get the numbers (from the general public) we had hoped for.

We then discussed future meetings and that, for now, we would plan to stick with smaller venues with a variety of topics, which seemed to have worked in the past. Some ideas were discussed such as invasives control, how to approach basic forest management, forest diagnostics, basic ecology, proper pruning, tree planting, etc. The board will continue to brainstorm for additional ideas. Venues such as Fox Haven, Ole Mink Farm, or similar, would be more suitable. We may also be able to partner with UMD Extension, master gardener/naturalists.

2. Mike hosted a tree walk at Gambrill State Park on April 25th. The walk was well received, with 6 or 7 people in attendance. This was hosted in conjunction with Mobilize Frederick City Nature Challenge.

3. Bruce updated the board on the Old Growth Forest Network and their desire to place a section of the C&O canal into the program. There has been no movement on the designated area at Cunningham Falls State Park.



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4. Jim Robins, from Thurmont, talked to Bruce regarding the walkway around the Thurmont Library. Bruce offered up some recommendations to improve the site (invasives control and thinning). Jim Robins plans to work with local high school students to complete this work.

2. Urban Forestry

1. Two big trees were measured over the past month and added to Frederick County (FC) list. One was a white oak (9th place in FC) and a red oak (5th place in FC). A redbud is scheduled to be measured on May 13th in Middletown. Mike will work with Bruce to schedule a time to measure the shortleaf pine at Stronghold. Mike is still planning on writing an article for the FNP regarding “orphaned” big trees.

3. Media

1. Nature Notes: We will prepare nature notes as time allows.
2. Website: Jim has continued to keep the website up to date.
3. Social Media: We continue to grow our FB & IG presence.

New Business

The board will reach out to Pillar Eans to see about planting a memorial tree for her husband and former member Claude Eans at Waterford Park. We will coordinate with Ginny Brace on location, species, and size of the tree. The goal would be to plant this tree later in the fall.

A motion was made to move the regular board meetings to 1:30pm every second Monday for 3 months as a trial period. If this time works better, we will vote at a later date to make it permanent.

Chuck enquired about NRCC and the number of students planning to attend. The Frederick board will be sponsoring 2 and the camp is nearly full at this point.

Chuck also enquired about the service forester in Franklin County PA. A hunt club he belongs to is looking to continue to plant and maintain a Christmas tree farm there. Dakota will make the connection.

Tom mentioned a nuisance bear he’s been dealing with around Sugarloaf Mountain. The recommendation was made to reach out to the WHS if issues continue.

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Frederick County Forest Conservancy District Board

frederick.forestryboard.org

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