



Chair – Jim Arnold  
Secretary – Dakota Durcho

Frederick County Forestry Board Meeting Minutes  
October 13, 2025

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

**Treasurer's Report:** The beginning balance for September was \$12,461.29. There was one deposit for \$2,000.00 from the annual Frederick County stipend and \$0.29 of interest accrued. There were three withdrawals over the past month, for various MDOT/MUCFC tree planting grants. These funds total \$4,172.63. The month's end balance was \$10,288.95.

Mike had a phone call with Dawn Balinski regarding expected changes to the board bank accounts. It sounds like we will need to close our existing account and open another under the FB Foundation. Individual accounts will be maintained and that DNR (board secretaries) will need to be removed from the bank accounts. Accounts will be placed under a 501(c)(3) and yearly spending reports will need to be submitted. Further information will follow.

Dawn also mentioned that there was a recent hire of a liaison with the FB Foundation. It sounds like she would be helping with technical assistance moving forward.

**Logging Site Exams:** Two timber harvest reviews were received over the past month. Both were looked at between the September and October meetings and were submitted by Soapstone Sawmill. These two properties adjoin, and the harvest will essentially be completed as one sale. The objectives for both properties are to generate income, promote future forest growth, and to remove dead and dying trees. A total of 816 trees will be cut on about 78 acres. Bruce, Chuck, Kerrie, and Dakota reviewed and approved the proposed harvest.

**Outreach:**

**1. Community**

1. We discussed the proposed memorial tree planting at Waterford Park. Jim will coordinate with Raemelton Farm, his brother, and the city to pick a day for the tree planting which is quickly approaching. Mike will pay Raemelton Farm \$478.00 for the cost of the trees in the meantime. The board has also decided to not go with the granite bench that Kerrie offered and instead will go with a metal bench. A motion was made to accept the following bench: DuMor model 493, 8' in length, forest green, and with a center arm rest. A plaque will also be affixed to it once the board decides on the verbiage. The total cost for the bench, including the plaque, will be around \$3,000.00. It could take 4 – 6 weeks to get the bench once ordered. A dedication ceremony will be planned for the spring.

2. The next workshop will be held on February 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Middletown Library. Mike will pursue reserving a room for that time. Once this is confirmed Dakota will seek a



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contractor to present on control methods and will begin promoting the event. Daniel Pratson with UMD may also have an avenue to help promote the event. Advertising should start at least 1 to 1.5 months in advance. Mike has put a rough agenda together, which he will also finalize. Kerrie also mentioned that she would need a microphone for her part of the presentation.

3. Bruce, Chuck, Tom, and Jim attended the Mt. Airy Green Fair on Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup>. It was a rainy afternoon, so the turnout wasn't great, but a few people did stop to talk. They would consider doing it again next year if the weather was better.

4. Mike is planning to host a tree walk at Gambrill State Park's Red Trail on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 12:00pm in conjunction with Mobilize Frederick. There are 12 students registered. We briefly discussed reimplementing quarterly walks, or walks on request, if time allows.

## **2. Urban Forestry**

1. A dawn redwood nominated by Bill Shaff (guest) was added to the Frederick County big tree list as the new county champ with 231 points. Bill also nominated the Ketterman white oak, which was also recently added to the county list with 300 points. An English elm was also added to our list to be measured. Kerrie mentioned a friend that has a large red maple that she is considering nominating. Mike also has a list of big trees he plans to seek out at Gambrill State Park and the Frederick City Watershed.

Two trees on the remeasure list for this year have been removed. These are trees 1386 and 1388. Ten remain to be remeasured.

## **3. Media**

1. Nature Notes: We will prepare nature notes as time allows.
2. Website: Jim is working on a few updates to the website. The maps for Baker Park and Hood College are no longer accessible so they need to be remade. In lieu of photos of the orphaned big trees, links to the Virginia Tech dendrology website for specific species will be posted. Bruce also mentioned adding the Frederick County Champion big trees with photos to the website.
3. Social Media: We continue to grow our FB & IG presence.
4. Tom is the only one receiving board emails. We need to determine an administrator to handle the board email account.

## **New Business**

The statewide forestry board meeting will be held on October 30<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3 pm at 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD 20851.

Jim asked if someone could put a spring talk together for his granddaughter's school about trees, seed collection, etc. Kerrie said she may be interested in helping with this come spring.