



Chair – Jim Arnold
Secretary – Dakota Durcho

Frederick County Forestry Board Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2025

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

Guests: K. Kyde

Treasurer's Report: The beginning balance for September was \$10,288.95. There were no deposits over the past month. Interest accrued was \$0.21. There were three withdrawals over the past month. The first was for the final MUCFC grant for \$1,000. The second was for \$340.00 for the purchase of seedlings for handout at the various green fests in the spring. The third was for \$300.00 for the delivery of the two blackgums planted at Waterford Park. The month's end balance was \$8,649.16.

Logging Site Exams: No logging site exam requests were received over the past month.

Outreach:

1. Community

1. The two memorial blackgums were planted at Waterford Park on October 28th. The trees were staked, caged, and mulched a few days later. Bruce will be reimbursed by the board for the cost of these supplies. Gator bags will also be purchased and installed. The board decided on the DuMor bench model 493, 8' in length, forest green, and with a center arm rest. Two round plaques will be affixed to the bench. The first plaque will have the Frederick Board's Logo and the second will say: *These two Black gum trees were planted as a living memorial to past members of the Frederick County Forestry Board. The Board's mission is to promote conservation, stewardship, and sustainable use of the forest resources of Frederick County.* It was also decided to match the font for both plaques. Finally, a small sign with a description of the blackgums will be affixed to a nearby post. The description is still being decided upon. We will need to follow up with Frederick County to see when the concrete base will be poured for the bench. A dedication ceremony will be planned for the spring.

2. The next workshop will be held on February 12th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Middletown Library. Mike pursued the reservation of a room but could not as they cannot be reserved more than two months in advance. He will try reserving the room on December 12th. Once this is confirmed Dakota will seek a contractor to present on control methods and will begin promoting the



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event. We decided to begin advertising for the event in January, following the holidays. Mike has put a rough agenda together, which he will also finalize. We also briefly discussed future venues such as Catocin Creek Nature Center.

3. Mike hosted a tree walk at Gambrill State Park's Red Trail on October 17th. The walk went well.
4. The board voted to attend the Middletown Green Fest on March 28th, 2026 from 10am to 2pm. Dakota will confirm that we will attend with the administrators. There will be two, two-person shifts for the event. Bruce, Mike, Kerrie, and Tom volunteered. We will plan to sort and package seedlings to be handed out before the event.

2. Urban Forestry

1. There are still ten big trees left that need to be remeasured. Bruce will continue coordination.

3. Media

1. Nature Notes: We will prepare nature notes as time allows.
2. Website: Jim will continue to update 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.

Statewide Meeting

Raising funds and boosting recruitment were major topics for the meeting. One way that we discussed raising funds is through a program similar to the Liberty Tree Program. Kerrie suggested that we talk to the Frederick County Historian to determine one (or more) historically significant trees in the county that we can collect seed and grow trees for sale. We discussed Mt. Olivet as a potential source, especially because of its tie to Francis Scott Key.

Recruitment possibilities include colleges, NRCC, events, Potomac Edison (or related professionals), sustainability folks, etc.

Dakota will need to be taken off the board's bank account and it will be transitioned to board ownership only, under MFF.

The timeframe for the board changes are March/April of 2026.

New Business

The December meeting is cancelled. A lunch will be held on December 8th at 2pm at Red Horse down in Frederick.

A motion was made to make the board meeting times for January – March 2:30pm, at the Gambrill Office.

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