



Chair – Jim Arnold
Secretary – Dakota Durcho

Frederick County Forestry Board Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2026

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

Treasurer's Report: The beginning balance for November was \$8,649.16. There were no deposits over the past two months. Interest accrued was \$0.36. There were two withdrawals since November. The first was for \$489.95 for the purchase of the two blackgums for Waterford Park. The second was for \$15.45 for the renewal of our website domain. The years end balance was \$8,144.31.

Logging Site Exams: One logging site exam was submitted since the last meeting. This job was submitted by Brian Blickenstaff. A select harvest of 147 trees has been marked. The landowner objectives are to harvest timber for income. Dakota will reach out to the landowners and schedule a time to meet on site with the board.

Outreach:

1. Community

1. The bench for Waterford Park has been ordered; it will take 6-8 weeks for delivery. The bench will be delivered directly to Frederick City staff who will install the bench on site. They should notify us when it is received. The board is on its final revision of the blackgum description sign, which will be affixed to a nearby post. Bruce will send out the last revision. The current quote for this bronze raised letter sign is \$550. We decided to use a locust post that will be concreted into the ground. For additional weather proofing the wood will be varnished. A dedication ceremony will be planned for the spring.

2. The invasive plants workshop will be held on February 5th at the Middletown Library from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. We have 29 people signed up with a few more weeks to reach max capacity of 35. Both a flyer and an agenda have been prepared. Mike will also purchase some light refreshments. We also want to send an email out to participants ahead of time asking for questions or other topics that can be addressed during the workshop. Jim will schedule a time to meet with library staff to make sure A/V equipment is in good order and to be sure that we have everything we need before the workshop.

We briefly discussed other future workshop ideas such as fire safety (wildland urban interface), chainsaw instruction, pruning, etc. Chuck also mentioned that PA has a trailer display, for portable demonstrations.

2. Urban Forestry

1. Bruce took a break from Big Tree measuring over the holidays. There are still five more remeasures for 2025 that need to be completed. These have been difficult to reach since contact information is out of date. Sending letters may be a good way to reach these individuals. There are 25 remeasures for 2026. Bruce will continue coordination.



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3. Media

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

New Business

Tom raised the question regarding whether ethics filings needed to be completed. The response from Anna Twigg was that ethics filings only needed to be completed by board chairs and by the additional county representative that will be serving on the regional board. All others do not need to complete ethics filings.

Jim and Kerrie are planning to meet with Hood College staff on Thursday 1/15 to see if there is the potential for collaborative efforts moving forward. Field trips, tree walks, and workshops will be topics discussed at this meeting.

Jim will start working on the annual work plan, which is now a requirement moving forward.

Tom mentioned that the annual poster contest is underway and that we can expect to start receiving posters over the next few months.