



Chair – Jim Arnold
Secretary – Dakota Durcho

Frederick County Forestry Board Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2026

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

Treasurer's Report: The beginning balance for January was \$8,144.31. There were two deposits over the past month. These were for MUCFC/DOT Tree Planting Grants totaling \$1,969.50. Interest accrued was \$0.16. There were no withdrawals over the past month. The months end balance was \$10,113.97.

Logging Site Exams: Three logging site exams were submitted since the last meeting. These jobs were all submitted by Chris Figgs of Stoltzfus Forestry. All are neighboring properties located along Basford Road. Combined they total 22.5 acres. Harvests are single tree selection to reduce stocking and improve wildlife habitat. 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 should be arriving at Frederick City DPW soon. Mike paid for the bench; however, the funds have not yet been withdrawn from the board's account. Jim will follow up soon to confirm that the bench has been received. The final version of the blackgum description sign, which will be affixed to a nearby post, has also been approved by the board. Bruce will confirm mounting pegs are located in the correct spots on the reverse side of the sign and finalize the order. The price for this 8" x 10" bronze raised letter sign is \$558.25. We decided to use a locust post that will be concreted into the ground. Tom will source a log on his property and Keith will saw it. For additional weather proofing the wood will be varnished. A dedication ceremony will be planned for the spring.

2. The invasive plants workshop was held on February 5th at the Middletown Library and was a great success. We reached full capacity of the room, with 35 attendees. We also received some good feedback for future workshops.

The next workshop we would like to host is on tree health. We thought this would be a good opportunity to partner with Hood College. The walk could take place at Hood College and be a walk around campus with an arborist. Mike mentioned that there are a lot of tree health issues there, so it would be a good location. A few different arborists were discussed, but we thought it would be good to ask Josh Dunk the Frederick City Arborist, to see if he would be interested. Dakota will reach out to him. Timeframe for this walk/workshop would be September.

Moving forward for future workshops we would like to have a brief canned presentation at the beginning where we can introduce board members and try to recruit new members. A table with a display board could also be set up. Having more dialogue with attendees is also desired.

Frederick County Forest Conservancy District Board
frederick.forestryboard.org

8602 Gambrill Park Road, Frederick, MD 21702



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Lastly, a field day wood products workshop was discussed. The idea was to provide landowners with the opportunity to listen to various speakers that cover standing timber, milling, drying, and markets for their wood. This would be a longer ½ day workshop. This idea may be perused in the future.

3. Anna mentioned the McClintock tree planting that will occur on Friday March 27th, inviting board members that would like to attend. She will also inform the board of other community tree plantings for those that are interested.
4. We were asked by Thurmont if we planned to attend The Thurmont Green Fest again this year. We plan to attend as usual; however, we are waiting for registration to be sent out.
5. The Middletown Green Expo is on 3/28 from 10am – 2pm. The board plans to attend this event.

2. Urban Forestry

1. Bruce was able to track down the landowners for the last five remaining big tree remeasures for 2025. There are 25 remeasures for 2026. Bruce will continue coordination. He would like to set up a few days where multiple trees can be measured at a time, so that we can more efficiently work through the lists. John Bennett will send out notices for remeasures, alleviating the need to contact landowners ahead of time.

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.

We discussed having MFF help manage or create a new web page. However, due to the amount of information, we thought that it would be best to complete the exemption to continue managing our own page.

3. Social Media: We continue to grow our FB & IG presence.

Annual Work Plan

Jim put a draft annual work plan together both a narrative and in the required excel document. He will send the excel document out for review by the board. We will discuss this in more detail at the March meeting. The deadline for the annual work plan is March 31st.

New Business

Chuck was able to get the PA wood trailer to attend the Frederick Fair from 9/21 – 9/23. We were invited to help staff the trailer during these days. We also discussed a regional wood trailer. Anna mentioned that she already brought this up to leadership.



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The City Nature Challenge, which is being headed by Mobilize Frederick, is running from 4/23 – 4/26. Mike offered to host a tree walk in cooperation with the event on Friday 4/24.

Mobilize Frederick has asked us for a letter of support for a CBT grant. We have also been asked to be community partners to help facilitate their efforts. This would mostly be done through our social media presence; however, we can still help in person. A motion was made to accept our support of Mobilize Frederick. The vote was unanimous.

AstraZeneca reached out to Dakota asking if we could attend their vendor fair for Earth Day. We will reach out to them to see if we can make their event, otherwise we will provide handouts and literature for an unmanned booth.

Sabillasville Environmental School has asked if the board could put on two 1-hour lessons for their students. The first is on tree ID and the other is on invasive plants. Mike said that he was willing to help, but proposed that we wait until May, since these lessons will be outside.