



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting July 8, 2024

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday July 8, 2024 at the Mt. Nebo forestry office. Those Board members in attendance either in person or virtually were: Mike Minnick, Mike Kozier, Mike Ferguson, Bill Buckel, Bill Aiken, Will Williams, John Bambacus, Fred Eggleston, Ken Fisher, Larry Tichnell, Siera Wigfield and Melissa Nash.

The agenda was approved with motion by Ken and 2nd by Fred.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved following a motion by John & 2nd by Mike K.

Bill B. read the treasurer’s report.

Forestry Board	\$4,212.74
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$2,467.26
Scholarship	\$1,494.08

The \$0.01 difference from last month has been reconciled. The report was accepted following a motion by Fred and 2nd by Mike F.

Volunteer Hours:

The Board’s hours since the last meeting were as follows:

Ken – 3	Mike K – 10	Mike F. – 3
Mike M. – 8	Fred – 7	Derek – no report
Larry – 3	Will – 9	John – 6
Bill B. – 48	Bill A. – 3	Siera – 5

TOTAL 105 hrs

OLD BUSINESS:

Watershed

Siera will be working with Molly on a watershed implementation plan. Molly is currently working on building connections with local organizations & communities.

Forestry Board Summit

Bill B. expressed the Board's concerns over lack of communication with Secretary Kurtz. He also requested a map of the trees that are planned to be cut for the Swallow Falls bridge project from Anne Hairston-Strang and was told that only "a handful" of trees are to be removed and it's in the hands of the lawyers. There was some discussion on markets. It does not sound like the annual meetings are likely to move out of central MD. Past discussion on moving the meeting periodically has fallen on deaf ears. Ken suggested we try to have as many members as possible attend the next meeting.

There was a letter written to the Governor from environmental conservation groups proposing a moratorium on logging in MD. MFA responded to the letter. John made a motion to write a letter in response with our concerns and Ken 2nd. Discussion included copying the County Commissioners, DNR Secretary, MFA and newspapers on our response. Bill will forward the MFA letter and we will try to get a copy of the original as well. The motion passed.

John made a motion that the Board follow up with Anne via letter asking for the map of the trees to be removed in the bridge project. Mike F. 2nd and the motion passed.

John commented that we should invite our delegate and senator to meetings. Other comments included that this has been done in the past with no response.

Reading Challenge

We had approximately 60 participants turn in completed forms. Winners were:

0-5 Harley Divelbliss

6-11 Hosanna Apawu

12+ Lydia Sgaggero

The program was well received by the public and the library. Further discussion included possibly partnering with the library on something with the Big Tree program next year.

Calendars

32 have been sold so far (\$320).

NEW BUSINESS:

Mt. Laurel Garden Club

Mike K. recently attended a MLCG meeting to talk about NRCC and our scholarship program. They are interested in making a donation. Melissa shared that the club is working on another planting project at Garrett College and she expects to see another MUCFC application soon. Ken suggested inviting a MLGC member to sit on the Board.

Civic Club

Fred shared that the Civic Club is holding a fundraising raffle. Anyone interested in tickets can get them through his wife, Anita. The Civic Club has supported NRCC the last several years.

NRCC

The gift basket is coming together. Please have any additional items to Melissa by 7/24 so she can put the basket together prior to the 26th.

There is a change in schedule for July 26th. We will meet with students at 9am (at least 6 board members are needed). Our meeting will be at 10am, followed by a memorial tree planting for Paul Shogren. Melissa shared the sign for the tree and she will get a post. Lunch will be provided for those who wish to stay.

Our 4th student decided to wait until he is eligible for the college credit to attend NRCC.

Bill Ashby

Bill Ashby was a forest landowner, Tree Farmer and for a time had the county champion Norway spruce, which he and his family helped measure. Bill passed away on June 3rd. His wish was for donations to be made to the Forestry Board in his memory in support of the 4-H Photo Contest at the fair as his grandchildren enjoy participating in the contest and he was a proponent of the Big Tree Program. As of the meeting we have received \$1,105 in donations, which will cover nearly 5 years worth of prize money for the contest. Melissa made a motion to rename the contest in Bill Ashby's memory. Will 2nd and the motion passed.

Fair

Melissa sent around a sign up sheet for the booth.

July 26 – set up booth (approx. 1:30pm)

July 28 – photo contest judging (1pm)

July 30 – Rotary fries (11am-5pm), man display booth (11am-8pm)

Aug 1 – man display booth (2pm-8pm)

Aug 2 – man display booth (2pm-8pm)

Aug 3 – man display booth (2pm-8pm)

Aug 4 – take down display booth (11am)

Upcoming Dates

July 21-27 – NRCC

July 26 – @ Hickory: Act as landowners (9am), Forestry Board Meeting (10am), memorial tree planting (following meeting)

July 28-August 3 – Garrett County Fair

No regular meeting in August