



## Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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### Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting November 4, 2024

#### Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday November 4, 2024 at the Mt. Nebo office. Those Board members in attendance were: Fred Eggleston, Larry Tichnell, Bill Aiken, Mike Ferguson, John Bambacus, Bill Buckel, Ken Fisher, Mike Kozier, Will Williams, Siera Wigfield and Melissa Nash. Guests included Molly Ramsey and Linda Harris.

The agenda was approved following a motion by John and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved following a motion by John. and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred.

Bill B. read the treasurer's report. Activity since the September meeting included receiving and dispersing the MUCFC grant to the Mt. Laurel Garden Club for \$996. We received a total of \$10,675 in memorial funds in memory of Mike Minnick. Per the decision at the September meeting, \$10,000 of that was put into a 12 month CD at 4.4%. Other transactions included deposit of calendar sales and postage expense for mailing a calendar.

Forestry Board	\$7,693.72
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$2,467.26
Scholarship	\$1,494.08
CD	\$10,000.00

#### Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 8	Mike K – 20	Mike F. – 3
Siera – 3	Fred – 3	Derek – (2)
Larry – 3	Will – 10	John – 3
Bill B. – 7	Bill A. – 3	

**TOTAL 65 hrs**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Watershed Update**

Molly and Siera gave updates on ARC grants. They are also working on a BMP workshop and possible incentive program for installing best management practices. They are working on a central watershed management location where information on projects and events can be found.

December 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting with partners to gather information and plan next steps and priority project for the Deep Creek Lake Watershed management plan. They are also looking at re-forming the EAC and plans for how to make it successful.

The bike & pedestrian trail pathways project website is live and accepting public comments. There are multiple public meetings scheduled.

<https://garrettcountymd.gov/pathways>

John asked Siera and Larry if eminent domain would be used to place trails on private property. Both indicated it would not happen.

Various local park improvements are being sought through a green space equity grant.

Will suggested looking at the Watershed Stewards Academy from Anne Arundel County as a model for local education on stormwater management and other BMP's.

### **Swallow Falls Bridge**

Ken made a motion to enter a committee of the whole. The motion was seconded by John and passed. Ken made a motion to come out of a committee of the whole. The motion was seconded by John and passed.

### **Scholarship**

Melissa read a thank you card from Katie Steyer and announced additional donations received from the Allegany County Forestry Board. She has sent thank you cards to those who donated. A discussion was held on re-naming the scholarship. Mike F. made a motion to rename to the Mike Minnick Forest Conservation Scholarship. John seconded and the motion passed. Melissa will update the application and information on the website.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Mt. Laurel Garden Club**

Linda Harris, co-president of the Garden Club spoke about the MUCFC grants the club has completed this year. They received 4 grants (2 for elementary schools and 2 for Garrett College) and planted a total of 160 trees and shrubs. They are looking at 2 additional projects at the college for 2025. They have also completed stormwater management projects at Deep Creek Lake State Park with the assistance of a Heritage Area mini grant.

Their native plant sale began 2 years ago as a club fundraiser. Linda presented a donation of \$650 from those funds to support a NRCC student from Garrett County. They plan to support a student each year.

Linda also gave an update on the status of the TreeCampus USA application. Garrett College is ready to apply and should receive that designation.

There are plans to plant a Liberty Tree on campus in 2025.

### **Fall Statewide Meeting**

The fall statewide Forestry Board meeting will be held in Washington Grove on 11/8. It was short notice and no virtual option is available.

### **Pest Update**

Save the date for February 19<sup>th</sup> for the annual Forest Pest update at New Germany State Park. More information will be available later.

### **Big Tree**

Mike K and Melissa measured a new state champion red pine and a new county champion serviceberry. They also measured a Norway spruce and European larch that were not quite large enough to oust the current county champions. Mike K noted a large red spruce that was pictured in the PGSF work plan. Melissa will check with Scott on size and location of that tree.

### **Calendars**

Please try to make one last push for calendars. They are \$10 each and would make great Christmas gifts.

### **Kitzmilller Light Up the Park**

Melissa made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill A to decorate a Forestry Board tree in the Park. The motion passed. Ideas included a tree ID or Smokey theme. A lighting ceremony will be held December 1 at 7pm and the display will be lit through Christmas.

### **Mt. Loggers**

Elimination dinner is November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Melissa and Will attended the last meeting. Will gave an overview of what the group has done for WVU Children's Hospital and the local community. The next meeting is November 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **2025 Workshop Ideas**

A few folks have inquired about a mushroom workshop again. Discussion included that the preparation for this is labor intensive at a busy time of year. Other ideas included doing mushroom buckets (with straw) instead of logs, a yule log craft before next

Christmas or a forestry tour or workshop. A PA system was suggested for any larger events.

### **December Meeting**

We will have a Christmas breakfast at Perkins.

### **State Forest Work Plans**

Melissa has a copy of the PGSF annual work plan if anyone would like a copy to read. Mike K attended their advisory meeting. Will will serve as the new representative for the SRSF advisory committee.

### **President's Circle**

Mike K attended the Garrett College President's Circle breakfast. At the breakfast, Christian Mash with Oakland Rotary asked for a presentation from the Forestry Board. Mike K will do a presentation at one of their future meetings.

A motion was made by Fred and Mike K to adjourn.

### **Upcoming Dates**

12/1/24 – Kitzmiller tree lighting ceremony @ 7pm

12/9/24 – Christmas breakfast at Perkins

12/10/24 – Mt. Loggers Christmas dinner (RSVP required)