

## Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board



### Minutes for the Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting – 28 May, 2024

Chairman Jim Harris called this meeting to order at 1:35PM.

#### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joli McCathran reported via email that since the Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board's previous meeting, a check in the amount of \$139.13 has been written to Joe Howard for reimbursement of a commemorative plaque purchased for Linda Pepe, an emeritus board member. The combined account balance is currently \$5,405.85.

#### Chair's Report

Chairman Jim Harris reported that thus-far five students from Montgomery County will attend this year's Natural Resources Career Camp, and he expressed thanks to board members Dan Landry and Lee Derby for their involvement with interviewing students. As of May 6, 2024, only one student has paid their \$150 activity fee, and the board will pursue the remaining and outstanding student activity fees. Jim was pleased to mention that he recently visited the botanical gardens in Edinburgh, Scotland, where most plants were in full bloom at the time of his visit.

#### Legislative Report

Laura Miller reported that no legislative matters nor bills are currently pending at county or state level.

#### DNR Report

Board secretary Chris Barger reminded the board that a state forestry board summit will occur on June 10-12, 2024, at the Hilton Doubletree in Annapolis, Maryland. Chris encouraged board members to attend this meeting.

#### New Business

Vice Chairman Dan Landry expressed that he wishes to keep the subject of tagging and identifying trees at green schools throughout Montgomery County on the agenda for discussion at the board's next meeting in June.

Laura Miller spoke on behalf of guest Andrés Ovalle, and introduced him to the board. Andrés shared his professional background with the board. Andrés has worked as a forestry technician and a nursery specialist in the past, and he excitedly announced his new position as the manager of Montgomery County's Tree Montgomery Program. Andrés further expressed interest in participating as a member in the Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board.

Norman King III mentioned that he has encountered camphor shoot borers, which are beetles that attack stressed and dying trees. These beetles are attracted to ethanol, which is produced by stressed trees. Camphor shoot borers have been known to bore into plastic gasoline cans and fuel lines, mistaking them and the ethanol content within the gas for a stressed or dying tree.

Natasha Shangold mentioned that she attended career day at Farquhar Middle School, and talked to students about exciting career opportunities in the broad fields of natural resource

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conservation and management. Natasha also mentioned that the City of Rockville will be complying with a new state ordinance, about which a community forum will be held on May 29, 2024.

Vince Fillah mentioned that he will be working to measure big trees soon, and he encouraged board members to travel to Chesapeake, Virginia to glimpse some spectacular champion trees. Vince also commented on a proposed large-scale forest harvest pertaining to about 100 acres of old-growth forest in Pocomoke State Forest. Laura Miller suggested that the board develop and posit an impact statement supporting sustainable forest harvesting and management practices in response to the proposal.

Joe Howard proposed that the next meeting of the Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board feature a potluck luncheon to officially dedicate the tree that was planted for Linda Pepe. Carole Bergmann mentioned that she would contact Linda to ask if she could join the meeting. The board voted to approve Joe's proposed luncheon, and the motion passed unanimously.

Carole Bergmann commented on Hoyles Mill Conservation Park of Boyds, Maryland. This park is a unique area featuring a rich composition of hardwood trees including eleven oak species.

Paula Perez mentioned that the City of Rockville held its Arbor Day celebration, and that the celebration went well. Paula also mentioned that local councilmembers have commented that they desire to only have native street trees in the City of Rockville. A discussion about what is considered to be a native/non-native tree ensued. Laura Miller commented that trees that are native to the Piedmont and Southeastern United States are suitable for consideration as native trees to Maryland, especially since these species will become more abundant as the climate trends warmer.

Laura Miller thanked Paula Perez and Lee Derby for representing the Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board for Montgomery County's Arbor Day event. Laura expressed that the board should be more active in representing tree-planting events, and kindly encouraged board members to participate more when they are able.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 25 June, 2024 at 1:30PM. The meeting will be located at the Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center's library at 5110 Meadowside Lane in Rockville, MD 20855.

### Attendance:

Jim Harris, Chairman  
Dan Landry, Vice Chairman  
Natasha Shangold, Board Member  
Vince Fillah, Board Member  
Joe Howard, Board Member  
Mary Howard, Guest  
Carole Bergmann, Board Member  
Paula Perez, Board Member  
Laura Miller, Board Member  
Norman King III, Board Member

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Andrés Ovalle, Guest  
Christopher Barger, Board Secretary