

Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board



Minutes for the Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting – 25 June, 2024

Vice Chairman Dan Landry called this meeting to order at 1:38PM.

The previous meeting's minutes were neither approved nor denied.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joli McCathran mentioned via email that she wrote a thank-you letter to Ashton Manor Environmental for their deposit to the Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board to fund the Natural Resources Career Camp. Account balances were not disclosed in this meeting due to Joli's absence from the meeting.

Chair's Report

Vice Chairman Dan Landry reported that 38 students from across the State of Maryland were attending this year's Natural Resources Career Camp, with five students attending from Montgomery County. Dan then recalled that he once applied to attend the Natural Resources Career Camp when he was a high school student, however his application was not accepted.

Legislative Report

Laura Miller did not disclose any specific legislative updates for the county at this meeting, however she did comment briefly about potential legal implications pertaining to noxious weeds and invasive plants encroaching across property boundaries.

DNR Report

Board Secretary Chris Barger mentioned that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service's Howard and Montgomery Counties project has been short-staffed due to a staff member's prolonged illness.

New Business

Vice Chairman Dan Landry recounted a fatal incident involving a Pepco bucket truck. Carole Bergmann mentioned that she has been leading walks for people to learn about and enjoy trees. Paula Perez noted that the City of Rockville had begun its new fiscal year, and that the city is filling a tree climber position.

Board Secretary Chris Barger excitedly announced that he will be marrying the love of his life on July 6, 2024. Laura Miller advocated for the attendance of the Natural Resources Career Camp, and she emphasized the importance of its teachings to hire knowledgeable professionals in the field of urban forestry. Laura raised the questions of whether jurisdictions aside from Montgomery County report individual tree plantings in their MS4, and who conducts the MS4 for the City of Rockville. Andrés Ovalle mentioned that he is excited to participate in the board meeting, and Board Secretary Chris Barger supplied him with an application form for board membership.

Joe Howard inquired to the board if anyone knows the status of Tree City USA in Montgomery County, and Laura Miller responded that she would investigate the matter. Joe then asked if whether the September meeting of the Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board

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will entail an honorary luncheon for Linda Pepe. Board members decided in response that details about a future luncheon would be discussed at September's meeting.

Norman King III presented a study to the board that proposes an effective biological control of Japanese beetles. The control method entails planting mountain mint, which attracts the native blue-winged wasp, which preys upon Japanese beetles. Vince Fillah commented that he noticed that the public seems to have a greater awareness of the environment and invasive plants. He suspects that this awareness is attributed to social media. Vince also wore a shirt that read "Easily Distracted by Trees", for which Joe Howard complimented Vince.

The Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board discussed the potential for leading educational walks for the public. The board decided that the prospect should be explored further at the next meeting in September.

Board Secretary Chris Barger adjourned this meeting at 2:45PM as Vice Chairman Dan Landry departed the meeting early.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 10 September, 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:

Dan Landry, Vice Chairman
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
Andrés Ovalle, Guest
Christopher Barger, Board Secretary