

**WASHINGTON COUNTY FORESTRY BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 1, 2023**

Present: Don Grove, Linda Grove, Greg Bartles, Kate Bucco, Doug Inkley, Judy Niedzielski, and Aaron Cook. Guests: Celeste Maiorana, Anna Twigg

**Display Pictures** – Aaron brought a thumb drive with all of the pictures accumulated thus far for Mary Jo to break into themed groups. Moving forward, new pictures will be published into a drive folder, along with existing pictures to help continuously update the display.

**Website items** – Celeste and Anna met in October to go over the website, specifically coordinating on a volunteer page. Anna has worked with the Frederick Board to help get volunteers/ events listed on their website; and the goal was to help locate volunteers, potential new members, and develop a list of interested people by event type. This partially comes from the 5 Million Tree initiative, but would serve as platform beyond that effort. Anna mentioned that more passive seed collection and tree planting reporting is an option (people collect seed based upon website, or plant a tree and report it on the website so that it is captured for 5MT reporting). Celeste envisions a dedicated volunteer page on the website, but had questions about an email for the board, who would collect this information, communication, etc. Aaron created a gmail account for the Board in order to establish a PayPal account some time ago. He offered up that email for the general board account, and said there is a way to have it forward automatically to his state email account. Celeste brought up issues with a business account and protecting private information. Aaron talked about some of the nice aspects of a google form and sheet and database management. The hope is to have this hashed out by the December update to the website, and have the proper email referenced in all formats of outreach.

**Other Business** – Greg shared a potential tree planting site along Antietam Creek, luckily Anna was at the meeting so all pertinent information was shared with the right people.

Doug updated big tree items by saying that when road construction is finished in South County, he will organize remeasurement of trees on C&O Canal that are particularly difficult to access while the roads are closed. He also will verify if a tree brought to Aaron's attention is currently on the big tree list, or not. The owner came forward with an offer of seed collection, but also suggested that the tree was in the record books and needed some health care diagnosis. Neither the MFS nor the FB provides that service.

The community tree planting at Leitersburg Ruritan Community Park has been scheduled for 11/18 @ 9AM. Aaron will bring the trees and shovels. Judy shared that concurrently there will be a fundraising breakfast to support a disabled local firefighter (that event runs from 7-11). So, you can have breakfast before or after the planting and support a good cause, if so moved. Kate will bring a camera and take pictures of the tree planting. Thanks to everyone who helped make this planting possible.

Aaron presented Don & Linda with a Tree Farm plaque. The plaque recognizes that Don and Linda were named the Northeast Regional Tree Farmers of the Year! This uncommon recognition for a Maryland Tree Farmer recognizes their hard work and dedication to forest management. They will be recognized in Washington State, where they will find out if they are the National Tree Farmers of the Year. Congratulations!

The statewide Forestry Board meeting is November 2, Don and Linda plan to attend and will take notes to share with the Board. Aaron regretfully cannot attend, thanks to Don and Linda for taking notes!

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

**The next business meeting will be 2PM, January 3, 2024.**