

Minutes
Allegany County Forestry Board
August 17, 2023 from 9:30am – 11:30am
Allegany Arts Council Building
To promote the stewardship, conservation and
sustainable use of forest resources in Allegany County

Call to Order:

Chairman's Signature: _____

- The meeting was called to order by secretary Adam Miller at 9:35 am on August 17, 2023. Attendees included members: **Bernie Zlomek, Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Francis Zumbrun, and Adam Miller**
- Special guest: **Melissa Nash, Amy Stonebreaker, Megan Zagorski, and Barbara Metzger**
- Not in attendance: **Ken Roberts, Juls Wood, Darrel Williams, and Marie Miller**

Goals and Annual Work Plan for the Board to meet for 2023

- **Completed** Develop the 2023 Goals and Annual Work Plan
- **Started** Raise funds to support Allegany County Forestry Board
- **Started** Bring in new members
- **Started with 3 meetings and 9 special events** Hold 6 local Forestry Board meetings and 4 special events
- **Completed** Complete all financial disclosure forms
- **Completed** Sign all Volunteer Forms
- **Completed** Find, interview, approve and financially support 2 students for NRCC
- **Completed** Promote outreach for NRCC
- Support NRCC at camp with volunteers
- **Completed** Facilitate the Forestry portion of the Envirothon
- **Completed** Organize, plan and co-sponsor with Allegany Arts Council the photo contest at the Allegany County Fair
- **Started** Facilitate 2 PLT Workshops
- **Started** Facilitate Heritage Legacy Tree Program
- **Completed** Support Big Tree Program
- **Started** Support Cumberland Watershed Plan Implementation
- **Completed** Facilitate both webpage and Facebook links and keep them active and adaptive
- **Completed** Plan & present a landowner workshop on Forest Carbon Credits
- **Started (Wood Energy Darrel)** Look into new programs with guest speakers to keep members educated on what is new

Note: Goals will be listed for the Forestry Board to track their success and act as a reminder of needed accomplishments for the 2023 Annual Work Plan. The word "completed" will be placed in the front of each goal once it has been accomplished.

Photo Contest Winners:

The top 3 photo contest winners were recognized and given their respective prizes at the Allegany Arts Council Building in Cumberland. Photos were taken and distributed on Allegany County Forestry Board Facebook page in their recognition.

Review of Minutes:

Minutes were already reviewed and sent into the public record.

Financial Activities:

Bernie provided a report and noted that not much money had been spent or received since the last meeting. Bernie says everything balances out nicely with the account.

NRCC:

Steve gave a recap on the week of NRCC. He stated that overall camp went very well and that there was a full group of students this year, however 2 students left or did not make it to camp. Steve also thanked the board for their help and support of the camp. At least 6 board members participated with camp in some fashion.

There was also some discussion on recruiting future students and Melissa shared some suggestions to the board on how the Garrett County Board recruits using 4H newsletter and High School guidance counselors.

Adam read a thank you card from the Allegany County student which thanked the board for assisting with camp tuition and for giving them the opportunity. It seemed like they thoroughly enjoyed camp and Steve commented that he was a very active student.

Big Tree Nomination:

Adam updated the board on the big tree nomination at Rocky Gap. He met with park staff and hiked up Evitts Mountain to look at the tree. While there, Julie and Adam took measurements and photos of the tree for the nomination.

The board also discussed the idea of having a Forestry Board Field Day in order to measure other big tree nominations around the county.

Melissa updated the board on where Allegany stands on certain big trees based on the Big Tree website, informing the group that there are 31 trees in Allegany County. Adam will follow up with John Bennett in order to confirm we are up to date on updated our county big tree database.

Francis suggested to the board that we have a quarter millennial celebration event in 2026. There was also some discussion on finding a large, old-growth tree (at least 250 yrs.) that could be used for photos.

Facebook Page:

The board discussed the status of the Forestry Board Facebook page. There was discussion to add Adam as an administrator of the Facebook page and/or create a new page if needed. Bernie and Adam will follow up with each other.

Urban Tree Planting Grants Fall 2023:

Brad informed the board that the LaVale Civic association urban tree planting grant application was denied by MDOT. However, Adam informed the board that there should be other funding available to fund the project in Spring of 2024. MD Forest Service staff will be assisting with the planting.

Liberty Tree

Francis updated the board on the status of the Liberty Tree program. He stated that the nursery had approximately 100 seedlings that germinated and would be available for spring 2024, pending survival over winter. He also said that interest is very high, and he had a back log list of over 400 people nationwide. He recently received a request for a Liberty Tree from someone in California.

Brad and Francis also discussed two recent liberty tree planting events which they assisted with. Brad at the newly renovated LaVale library, which Francis also assisted with. And Francis talked about a liberty tree planting at Kitzmiller botanical garden recognizing 75 years.

Evitts Creek Steering Committee

Steve updated the board on the latest steering committee meeting. He has concerns for the management plan not being followed on the Cumberland Watershed. He said the city hired a private consultant forester to implement only timber harvests on the property. Steve has a meeting with the mayor of Cumberland to discuss his concerns about management on the property.

New Membership:

Annie Stark was invited to attend this meeting, but unfortunately was unable to attend. Adam said that he sent Annie an application and she is in the process of filling it out. She is very excited for the opportunity to become a board member.

House Keeping Items:

Steve and Francis completed re-appointment applications to stay on the board.

Upcoming Events:

- Big Tree Measuring Field Day

Attended Events: (note, members need to attend at least 50% of yearly meetings to be in good standing)

- **January 19, 2023:** Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting via Google Meets: **Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Ken Roberts, Juls Wood, Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun and Dan Hedderick**
- **January 31, 2023:** Forestry Days in Annapolis: **Darrel Williams**
- **February 22, 2023:** Western Maryland Forest Pest Update: **Brad Metzger and Bernie Zlomek**
- **February 23, 2023:** Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting via Google Meets: **Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Ken Roberts, Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek, Darrel Williams and Dan Hedderick**
- **March 8, 2023:** at 5:45pm. Landowner Carbon Workshop at Allegany College of Maryland Technology Building, Room 121: **Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek, Darrel Williams and Dan Hedderick**
- **March 9, 2023:** Statewide MD Association Annual Spring Forestry Board Meeting 8:30am to 3:00pm Tawes State Office Building C1 Conference Room 580 Taylor Avenue: **Bernie Zlomek, Dan Hedderick**
- **March 10, 2023:** Project Learning Tree Workshop for the Elementary Ed majors at Frostburg State University: **Francis Zumbrun, Bernie Zlomek, Brad Metzger and Steve Resh**
- **March 20-23:** Maryland DNR wood energy tour in New Hampshire in partnership with MD Clean Energy Center. **Darrel Williams**
- **April 19, 2023:** Assisted Garrett County Forestry Board with measuring big trees which produced a state champion red pine. **Francis Zumbrun and Melissa Nash**
- **April 20, 2023:** Interviewed and accepted student for NRCC: **Steve Resh, Marie Miller, Juls Wood and Dan Hedderick**
- **April 25, 2023:** Envirothon: **Francis Zumbrun, Bernie Zlomek**
- **May 6, 2023:** Attended 75th anniversary celebration of Kitzmiller Botanical Garden where a tree was planted, and signs were installed. **Francis Zumbrun and Melissa Nash**
- **May 18, 2023:** Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting Pleasant Valley: **Steve Resh, Juls Wood, Francis Zumbrun, Bernie Zlomek, Brad Metzger, Darrel Williams, and Dan Hedderick**

- **June 1, 2023:** Attended Appalachian Professional Foresters Association (APFA) summer meeting. **Bernie Zlomek, Steve Resh, Melissa Nash, and Adam Miller**
- **June 15/16, 2023:** Assisted with training students for the forestry test at the Maryland State Envirothon at the 4H Center in Garrett County. Also, assisted in implementing the exam. **Bernie Zlomek, Champ Zumbrun, and Adam Miller**
- **July 17, 2023:** Attended and completed the Tree Photo judging contest at the Allegany County Fair and board meeting. **Juls Wood, Ken Roberts, Bernie Zlomek, Brad Metzger, Darrel Williams, Adam Miller, and Julie Conway**
- **July 22, 2023:** Francis assisted in planting a liberty tree at Kitzmiller Botanical Garden in recognition of 75 years. **Francis Zumbrun and Melissa Nash**
- **July 23 – 29, 2023:** Assisted with the operations and various components at Natural Resources Careers Camp (NRCC). **Steve Resh, Adam Miller, Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek, Brad Metzger, Francis Zumbrun, Julie Conway, Melissa Nash, and many other DNR staff**
- **July 24, 2023:** Planted a liberty tree at the newly renovated LaVale Library along with the help of the LaVale Civic Improvement Association and the LaVale Lions Club. **Francis Zumbrun and Brad Metzger**
- **August 8, 2023:** Measured a sassafras tree at Rocky Gap State Park as it was nominated for a county champion big tree. **Adam Miller and Julie Conway**
- **August 17, 2023:** Tree photo contest winners were recognized and given monetary prizes at the Allegany Arts Council building. A small Forestry Board meeting followed. **Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun, Steve Resh, Brad Metzger, Adam Miller & Melissa Nash.**