

Minutes
Allegheny County Forestry Board
November 14, 2023 from 9:00am – 11:00am
Pleasant Valley Western Regional Forestry Office
To promote the stewardship, conservation and
sustainable use of forest resources in Allegheny County

Call to Order:

Chairman's Signature: _____

- The meeting was called to order by secretary Adam Miller at 9:05 am on November 14, 2023. Attendees included members: **Bernie Zlomek, Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Francis Zumbrun, Ken Roberts, Juls Wood, Darrel Williams, and Adam Miller**
- Special guest: **Katherine Phillips**
- Not in attendance: **Annie Stark 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 Allegheny County Forestry Board
- **Completed** Bring in new members
- **Completed** 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
- **Completed** Support NRCC at camp with volunteers
- **Completed** Facilitate the Forestry portion of the Envirothon
- **Completed** Organize, plan and co-sponsor with Allegheny Arts Council the photo contest at the Allegheny County Fair
- **Completed** Facilitate 2 PLT Workshops
- **Started** Facilitate Heritage Legacy Tree Program
- **Completed** Support Big Tree Program
- **Completed** 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
- **Completed (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.

Review of Minutes:

Minutes were already reviewed and sent into the public record. Ken signed hard copy minutes.

Financial Activities:

Bernie provided a report and noted that everything balances out nicely with the account. Champ will contact LaVale Lions club about a donation that was to be sent into the board for NRCC. Ken motioned to approve the financial report and Steve seconded and the vote passed.

Urban Tree Planting Grants Fall 2023:

Katherine Phillips provided a report on 3 fall urban plantings that the board supported where a total of 62 trees were planted. Kat also explained the various grants and their differences including MDOT and MUCFC. Kat also explained more about the 5M trees program and its current status. Champ made the suggestion that in the future the board could offer to help pay for tree planting specialists to take a dendrology course at Allegany College if interested. No vote was taken.

The board also discussed upcoming urban planting opportunities for spring of 2024. Brad has a potential project at the Cumberland Shriners club which will buffer Evitts Creek. Kat also mentioned that she will likely have more projects with schools, etc.

Big Tree Logo Vote:

The board took a vote on the final logo options for the MD Big Tree Program. There was some discussion as to whether the logo would be a one-time thing for the centennial or if it would be a permanent logo going forward. Adam said he would send an email asking the question and send in the board's final vote based on the response.

Evitts Creek Steering Committee

Steve updated the board on his meeting with the city of Cumberland. There he expressed his concerns for the newly contracted consulting forester not following the management plan as it was not in the job description. He felt as if his voice was heard, and he feels better about the forest management going forward. In fact, the consultant came to the next Steering Committee meeting following the meeting with the city of Cumberland.

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 backlog 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.

There was also some discussion about raising the price of the liberty trees up from \$20. A variety of numbers were discussed and ultimately the board decided it would be Francis's final call. It seems like he plans to raise the price up to \$30 per seedling.

Francis will be collecting seed from the liberty tree in the coming weeks with help from Davey tree care lift truck. In the future, he would like to explore the idea of grafting and/or cloning as an option to provide liberty tree seedlings.

National Road Tree Cookie / 250th celebration tree

Francis asked if the board would be interested in attending an Arbor Day event at the LaVale library where a national road tree cookie dating more than 300 years old is to be dedicated and a liberty tree will be planted. He also told us he acquired another national road tree cookie dating more than 300 years old and is working with Allegany College forestry program to preserve it.

Francis also presented to the group on the idea of designating a county tree that is at least 250 years old to be celebrated in 2026 as part of the semiquincentennial celebration of our nation. Two trees were mentioned as possible options, and one was selected as the likely choice. The plan is to also

collect acorns in order to grow seedlings from the special tree. It is a large white oak growing along the national road in LaVale, MD.

Statewide Meeting update:

Adam and Steve provided an update from the statewide meeting to the board. Among the updates were the 5M tree program, the state of the MD Forest Service and staff, as well as carbon.

House Keeping Items:

All renewal applications were submitted as well as a new member application for Annie Stark. There was also discussion about electing a vice chair which will occur in January's meeting.

Upcoming Events:

- Francis is going to collect liberty tree seed at St. John's University
- Christmas gathering 12/13/23

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.**
- **September 22, 2023:** Project Learning Tree Workshop for the Elementary Ed majors at Frostburg State University: **Francis Zumbrun, Bernie Zlomek, Steve Resh, Marie Miller, Adam Miller, Julie Conway, and Katherine Phillips**
- **October 20, 2023:** Steve attended a meeting with city of Cumberland to discuss management concerns on the city watershed property. **Steve Resh**
- **October 27, 2023:** Steve attended a quarterly meeting for the Evitts Creek Steering Committee pertaining to the management of the watershed. **Steve Resh**
- **November 2, 2023:** Attended statewide forestry board meeting virtually at Allegany College of Maryland. **Steve Resh, Francis Zumbrun, Marie Miller, and Adam Miller**
- **November 14, 2023:** Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley. **Bernie Zlomek, Brad Metzger, Juls Wood, Francis Zumbrun, Steve Resh, Darrel Williams, Ken Roberts, Adam Miller, and Katherine Phillips.**
- **November 15, 2023:** Attended fall Envirothon training for approximately 65 Allegany County High School students. **Adam Miller**