

Allegany County Forestry Board Minutes
January 18, 2024 from 9:00am – 11:00am
Pleasant Valley Western Regional Forestry Office
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 9:05 am on January 18, 2024. Attendees included members: **Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Francis Zumbrun, Juls Wood, Darrel Williams, Annie Stark and Adam Miller**
- Special guest: **None**
- Not in attendance: **Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek & Ken Roberts**

Goals and Annual Work Plan for the Board to meet for 2024

- **Started** Develop the 2024 Goals and Annual Work Plan
- **Started** Raise funds to support Allegany County Forestry Board
- **Started** Bring in new members
- **Started** Hold at least 6 local Forestry Board meetings and 4 special events
- **Started** Complete all financial disclosure forms and Volunteer forms
- Attend arbor day event at LaVale Library to present historic tree cookie
- Find, interview, approve and financially support 2 students for NRCC
- **Started** Promote outreach for NRCC
- Support NRCC at camp with volunteers
- Facilitate the Forestry portion of the Envirothon
- Organize, plan and co-sponsor with Allegany Arts Council the photo contest at the Allegany County Fair
- Facilitate 2 PLT Workshops
- Facilitate Heritage Legacy Tree Program
- Support Big Tree Program
- Support Cumberland Watershed Plan Implementation
- Facilitate both webpage and Facebook links and keep them active and adaptive
- **Started** Conduct a county-wide 5th grade arbor day poster contest

Note: Goals will be listed for the Forestry Board to track their success and act as a reminder of needed accomplishments for the 2024 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.

Financial Activities:

Adam reviewed the financial report which was provided by Bernie prior to the meeting. \$500 was received last month from Allegany Soil Conservation to sponsor an NRCC student. Champ was reimbursed for expenses related to collecting of Liberty Tree seeds and PLT supplies were purchased. Champ is working with LaVale Lions club about a donation that was to be sent into the board for NRCC. Juls motioned to approve the financial report and Darrel seconded and the vote passed.

Annual Work Plan / Review of contact list / Financial disclosure forms / Volunteer forms

Members that were present completed volunteer forms and established goals and priorities for 2024. The contact list was updated and confirmed accurate. Adam confirmed that all newly appointed members received a certificate of membership. Adam also advised that financial disclosure forms need to be completed.

Website and Facebook Page

Adam will meet with Bernie in order to gain access as an administrator to the Facebook Page. Adam asked about where the website domain was housed as well as costs associated with it. Adam will look into other options for hosting of our website.

Urban Tree Planting Grants Spring 2024:

The board discussed the approval process for incoming applications and voted to allow Adam to review and approved the grants while also keeping the board posted. Applications are due by February 15th, 2024. Adam advised the board that there will likely be 6-8 grant applications to approve for this spring. At this point, only one grant has been approved – the LaVale Civic Assoc.

5th Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest

Adam advised the board that there will be a statewide contest this year. There was much discussion about having a local county contest and all were in support of it. Francis moved that we offer monetary prizes for first, second, and third to our county students, with the champion then being represented at the state level. Annie said she has some contacts at the school to help spread the word. Francis also has contacts through Outdoor School and will help spread the word. This contest will be posted on our Facebook Page as well. Entries are due by March 1, 2024 and will be voted on by board members.

NRCC

Adam advised that enrollment is open and to spread the word to help find good candidates. He also advised the board that we received \$500 from Allegany Soil Conservation District to sponsor 1 student. We can now fully fund a minimum of 2 students going to camp. Lastly, Adam mentioned there was an informative NRCC webinar available at 1pm on 1/18/24 and encouraged board members to attend if available.

Georges Creek Elementary School Planting Opportunity

Juls told the board that his forest technician, Robbie Evans, has a planting opportunity at Georges Creek Elementary school where his two children attend. Details are yet to be worked on how many students and planting locations. Adam offered Backyard Buffer trees as a last resort option, but an urban planting grant is also a possibility. Brad put Mike Garner in touch with Juls as they are planning to have an arbor day planting event in the Georges Creek area this coming April. Adam/Kat will reach out to Dan's Mountain State Park as a possible option as well.

Bob Wester Memorial Tree

There was discussion about checking with local sign shops to get quotes on a small memorial plaque to label the wye oak tree planted in memory of Bob at Pleasant Valley Regional Office. Francis will draft a short saying to honor Bob and will present at the next meeting. Brad and Adam will reach out to the sign shops for quotes.

Forestry Board Summit

Adam advised the board of the upcoming forestry board summit in May 2024. He will keep them posted on details and he encouraged them to attend if interested and possible.

National Road Tree Cookie to be present on Arbo Day 2024

Francis informed the board that a 363-year-old white oak cookie will be presented at the newly renovated LaVale library on Arbor Day 2024. He plans to have some historical info available to illustrate important historical people that walked under this very tree along the National Road. He encouraged board members to participate if available. This specific tree cookie was preserved, and rings counted by students at Frostburg State University.

Liberty Tree

There was some discussion about raising the price of the liberty trees up from \$20. After much discussion the board decided on \$40 per tree. The board voted on this price and the vote passed.

Francis also suggested the idea of donating a liberty tree to each county in Maryland to recognize our country's 250th birthday in Spring of 2026. The board was highly in favor of this idea and Adam will bump it up the chain to see if this is doable and what next steps will be.

Officer Elections:

A motion was made to elect Marie as the chair and Brad as the vice chair. Both votes passed and they will assume their new positions with the board. Adam thanked them for their willingness and commitment to the board. Thanks to Ken Roberts for his many years of commitment to the board serving as the chair.

House Keeping Items:

A monthly schedule was established for future meetings. They will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month unless a special occasion or major conflict occurs.

Upcoming Events:

- NRCC Webinar 1/18/2024
- February Meeting 2/20/2024

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

- **January 18, 2023:** Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley and Google Meets. **Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Darrel Williams Juls Wood, Annie Stark, Francis Zumbrun and Adam Miller**