

## Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board



### Minutes for Montgomery County Forestry Board Meeting – 14 March, 2023

Meeting called to order at 1:35 PM by Acting Chair Dan Landry.

Minutes from the meeting occurring on 14 February, 2023 were approved with corrections.

#### Treasurer's Report

No treasurer's report was provided at this meeting.

#### Acting Chair's Report

Dan Landry mentioned that with respect to the 2023 NRCC, two students have been approved, one application remains for processing, and one student remains to be interviewed. Dan mentioned that he would also be happy to serve as Vice Chair of the board going forward.

#### Big Tree Tour

Board members discussed the logistics of the planned tour to visit some of the champion trees in Montgomery County. Joe Howard and Carole Bergmann comprised a tentative list of trees to visit, including three that scored in excess of 400 points. The board requested that Chris Barger organize a poll to survey members' availability to decide the best date and time to schedule the tour. Dominic Quattrocchi mentioned in an email that he is working to obtain transportation for the tour. Vince Fillah also added that a personal friend may be able to procure a van for the tour.

#### Legislative Report

Laura Miller provided commentary regarding the Forest Conservation Act. In particular, the State of Maryland is seeking no net-loss of forest and canopy cover over a two year period, and that forest cover is subject to the forest conservation law. A one-to-one replacement ratio would accordingly apply to canopy cover. A brief discussion among board members about forest banking and lower acreage thresholds for tax credit eligibility followed.

#### DNR Report

No significant information was reported during this meeting.

#### Tree Planting

Tree planting will occur at Rocky Hill Middle School in Clarksville, MD 20871. The school's environmental club will plant the trees after school on April 11, 2023. A celebratory event is planned to follow, and Arbor Day was suggested as a potential date. Joe Howard suggested that a Champion Tree display might be suitable for the event.

#### New Business

Laura Miller mentioned that she applied for a grant to plant 1,150 trees at 41 schools for 2024, and the grant is pending approval. The board discussed the possibility of installing signs at these schools to communicate the value of trees. Eddie Franceschi suggested that incorporating student activities such as measurement exercises during or after tree planting may help develop their interest in natural resources. Vince Fillah added that students may be more interested in tree planting if they choose the species themselves. The board briefly discussed that student involvement in tree measurements and related work may be eligible for such recognitions including the Gold Award in Girl Scouts.

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Chris Barger distributed a membership re-appointment form to Eddie Franceschi, and an appointment form to Vince Fillah. Joe Howard commented that a recent op-ed in the Washington Post cited deer as the most significant threat to forests. Joe showed and read an excerpt from a book titled *Reforesting Faith: What Trees Teach Us About the Nature of God and His Love for Us* by Matthew Sleeth. Joe summarized that the book demonstrates that all significant biblical events can be linked to trees on some level. Joe then mentioned that it was pleasant to have Dan Landry act as the board's Chairman. Joe finally showed the board a large Coulter pine cone, and quizzed Laura Miller to correctly identify its associated tree species. Vince commented that he has been diligently working to measure big trees.

### Old Business

No old business was discussed at this meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for **11 April, 2023 at 1:30 PM**, at Rocky Hill Middle School located at 22401 Brick Haven Way in Clarksville, MD 20871.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

### Attendance:

Dan Landry, Acting Chairman  
Vince Fillah, Guest  
Eddie Franceschi, Board Member  
Joe Howard, Board Member  
Carole Bergmann, Board Member  
Chris Barger, Secretary  
Lee Derby, Board Member  
Laura Miller, Board Member