

**WASHINGTON COUNTY FORESTRY BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 7, 2021**

Present: Steve Evans, Aaron Cook, Marguerite Klein, Mary Jo Bartles, Doug Inkley, Greg Bartles, Don Grove, Linda Grove, and Judy Niedzielski.

**NRCC Applicant Interview** – Our Board received an application from a Washington County Senior. Our applicant was invited to virtually attend the meeting for in interview. Following the interview, the Board unanimously voted to send the applicant to Camp Hickory, and cover the application fee. Aaron will contact the applicant to congratulate and provide information for the next step.

**Planting Opportunities** – Judy explained that the Leitersburg Ruritan has built an activity center behind the old school, on the north end of Leitersburg. The activity center and surrounding property is a popular place for festivals in Leitersburg. The new development created a stormwater pond and areas that seem suited for tree planting. Judy has spoken with the ruritan, and there seems to be an interest in planting trees. Aaron explained that the Maryland Forest Service would likely have funds to cover a container tree planting, depending upon scale. He encouraged Judy to see if the ruritan would be willing to meet on site with him to move forward, the board could assist with supervision/administration of the planting. Earliest would be fall 2021, spring 2022. Aaron mentioned that he will talk with the town manager of Hancock to see if there is a suitable place for the 5 md arbor day poster contest trees. The library system has not responded to the request to plant at the local branch. He hopes we can plant the trees this fall, pending a suitable location. Aaron mentioned the ongoing tree plantings with private landowners, and encouraged the board to share any tree planting interest with him, as there are more funding opportunities than he can remember, which is wonderful.

**Other Business** – A question was raised about forest removal for a development project on MD-63. Aaron explained the Forest Conservation Act and local ordinance requirements, but was not certain if this project fell under FCA, he will look into it.

Greg announced that the NRP Fallen Officers ceremony would be held at the MD Conservation Agency Museum on May 18<sup>th</sup>. He gave a history of the ceremony, from its origins in far western Maryland to the more recent travelling status of the ceremony and commemorative stone marker honoring the NRP officers who fell in the line of duty. He hoped to plant something that would be flowering at that time around the marker for the ceremony, and asked the Board for their input.

Aaron will bring more Smokey pocket calendars to the next meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.

**The next regular business meeting will be at 2:00 PM, May 5, 2021, at the Maryland Conservation Agency Museum (Greg's place).**