

WASHINGTON COUNTY FORESTRY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
September 6, 2023

Present: Greg Bartles, Mary Jo Bartles, Don Grove, Linda Grove, Doug Inkley, Kate Bucco, Judy Niedzielski, and Aaron Cook. Celeste Maiorana attended as a guest.

NRCC Follow-up – Aaron will email a copy of a thank you card from our student, she enjoyed camp and learned a lot.

Big Tree – Doug’s notes from last time remain the current status, the hot and dry summer kept field work at bay. He hopes to use cooler temperatures to access to hard to reach trees on the C&O canal in southern Washington County. Access has been hampered by road construction and parking lot closures. Kate asked about the nomination process and brought up a white oak in Washington County. Doug explained the process with contributions from past coordinator, Celeste. During the meeting a request came in from Hagerstown Magazine, wishing to learn more about the 2 bicentennial trees in the County. Celeste will respond to the email from the Big Tree Committee, and some discussion was had about the trees.

Other Business – Aaron has been working with the Leitersburg Ruritan for an additional fall tree planting there, thanks to Judy for the initial connection to this partnership. After October 10, the trees will be stored at the forestry office and Aaron will nail down an event date some time in October to plant the trees.

The Hagerstown Flower & Garden is 3/16 &17, Aaron will send the application for vendor space back to HCC.

Aaron has compiled all of the shared photos (thus far) into a folder and has been trying to organize them into more specific categories (tree planting, workshops, one-off events, nature trail, etc.). He hopes we can put them into a commonly accessible place and begin to pick items for printing to add to the display. He also hopes to get a banner stand produced with photos and artwork that will remain a generic eye-catcher to draw people into the more easily updated display. He also has a tablet now that can be used for a scrolling photo display. Mary Jo and Kate have volunteered to help further organize the photos. Celeste offered to send more pictures of past tree planting events from her time on the Board. Thanks to everyone for helping!

Celeste brought up the website. She has been keeping it active and hosting it, even in her retirement from the Board. This is greatly appreciated, and Aaron inquired if we should be making annual contributions to support this, as we have not had success migrating into new space. Celeste enjoys the website, and added that it is mostly upkeep of her initial workload in developing it. She has been changing it for the seasons, and trying to add updates as they are shared via the minutes. Aaron will work to get her information more quickly. Aaron shared the Frederick Board website to highlight some things that Anna Twigg had asked to have put on that website relating to volunteer events and seed collection. Aaron will connect Celeste and Anna to get more information out about events in Washington County this fall and beyond..

Greg asked about the status of our efforts to have an old fire tower cab donated to, and hosted by the Washington County Rural Heritage Museum. Aaron had sent an email to them, and has not heard back. He will send another email, and keep trying to get a response.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4 PM.

The next regular business meeting is tentatively at 2:00 PM, October 4, 2023, at Maryland Conservation Agency Museum.