

Minutes
Allegheny County Forestry Board
January 19, 2022 from 9:00am – 11:15pm
Virtual – Google Meets
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 Chairman Ken Roberts at 9:04 am on January 19, 2022. Attendees included all members: **Dennis Bittinger, Sherry Frick, Tom Mathews, Brad Metzger, Marie Miller, Steve Resh, Ken Roberts, Juls Wood, Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun and Dan Hedderick**
- Special Guest: **Dr. Anne Hairston-Strang** (Acting State Forester), **Joli McCathran** (New President for the Association of Forestry Boards) and **Anita Simmons** (Forester City of Cumberland)
- **Note:** Special thank you to **Brad Metzger** for the Google Meets link!

Goals and Annual Work Plan for the Board to meet for 2022
(Covid-19 may affect outcome):

- **Started** Develop the 2022 Goals and Annual Work Plan
- Raise funds to support Allegheny County Forestry Board
- Bring in new members
- Hold 6 local Forestry Board meetings and 4 special events
- **Started** Complete all financial disclosure forms
- **Started** Sign all Volunteer Forms
- 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 Allegheny Arts Council the photo contest at the Allegheny County Fair
- Facilitate 2 PLT Workshops
- Facilitate Heritage Legacy Tree Program
- **Started** Support Big Tree Program
- Support Cumberland Watershed Plan Implementation
- Facilitate both webpage and Facebook links and keep them active and adaptive
- Support 5 Million Tree Initiative
- Support the Family Forest Carbon Program
- **Started** 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 2022 Annual Work Plan. The word "accomplished" will be placed in the front of each goal once it has been completed.

Minutes Reviewed:

Dan explained that minutes from October had already been approved and sent in for the public record. He asked if there was any discussion about approved minutes and there was none.

Financial Activities:

Bernie reported that we received the \$87.50 from the Allegany Art Council for their support of the prize money for the 2021 photo contest.

Board was reimbursed \$450 by FSU for PLT books and \$175 by ACM for PLT books.

Bernie spent \$501 for posters and \$750 for PLT Activity Guides

We also received a donation from **Francis Zumbun** on behalf of **Don Malaney** after a discussion the Board decided to put the donation into the general fund. **Dan** will contact the **Malaney** family to inform them of the donation.

A discussion started by **Steve** was had about the Heritage Tree and the Liberty Tree. The result was to combine those items into one budget line on our Treasures Report.

(Motion)

Ken made a motion to put the Heritage Tree and Liberty Tree on one budget line for the Treasures Report seconded by **Steve** and all were in favor.

Budget:

Ken said he will work on a budget for 2022.

Annual Work Plan, Updated Contact List, Reappointment Applications, Financial Disclosure Forms and Volunteer Forms:

Dan asked for everyone to take care of reviewing each of these and take action where needed. **Dan** will send out updates to the contact list that were mentioned.

Introductions:

Dr. Anne Hairston-Strang (Acting State Forester), **Joli McCathran** (New President for the Association of Forestry Boards)

Joli McCathran – Reminded us about the Statewide meeting on Thursday, March 3

Webpage and Facebook:

Sherry will update the NRCC information on the webpage.

Sherry offered to do a tutorial training for the Forestry Board members in the hope that we will have more members post in Facebook. **Steve** said he would like that to be done. **Sherry** said she will present that at the next meeting.

There was also a discussion with **Francis** about posting a link to SAF and certain stories on our Facebook.

Big Tree Program:

Matt was not able to make our meeting, but he sent a report that included 34 new trees added to the Statewide list representing 9 different species all in Allegany County.

Dawn Balinski sent out a request to help support the Big Tree Program. **Joli** was able to shed more light on the request. **Dan** mentioned the support we have given to **Matt** in setting him up with a measuring kit and **Joli** talked about the laser **Matt** received from them to make more accurate measurements. **Bernie** spoke up and supported the idea of making a donation, since the Statewide Board has been financially supportive of our other projects and regularly sends donations to us.

(Motion)

Bernie made a motion to provide a \$100 donation to the Statewide Board in support of the Big Tree Program seconded by **Francis** and all were in favor.

Anita Simons (Cumberland City Forester) told the group about her Big Tree Contest in the City of Cumberland and **Dan** explained that she is working with **Matt** on measurements and permission form, etc. **Joli** checked the Big Tree site and looked forward to more trees being listed that were within the city limits of Cumberland.

Francis told the group that he received a box from **Johnson Offutt** and found a folder from **Fred W. Besley** including a draft of the original 1925 Big Tree program. **Francis** said he will be taking more trips to the archives, and he will work with **Joli** in making copies of the documents.

Dan told the group that he has secured an article to be written about the Big Tree Program in a local publication called Mountain Discoveries. He has provided contact information to the magazine for **John Bennett, Francis Zumbrun, Matt Volithofer** and himself. Mountain Discoveries has interviewed all of them and they are working on final details for a spring release of the article.

Liberty Tree:

Francis reported that he once again collected a large number of seeds from the Liberty tree at Saint John's College in Annapolis and is hopeful for 2023. Only 30 seeds germinated from what he collected last year and they have all been requested/sold.

Brad talked about having a Liberty Tree planted at the new LaVale Library and will work on that with **Francis**.

NRCC:

Dan has worked with both Wheelzup Adventures and Alleganyplayground@gmail.com on promoting NRCC.

Photo Contest:

The contest has been going on for 5 or 6 years, with 15 to 20 photos entered in the 2021 contest. **Steve, Tom, Ken, Brad** and **Sherry** all talked about making a change and settled on adding in photos of more than a single tree for the contest. **Tom** will work on language and get that out to everyone for approval and addition into the Fair Book with **Sherry** before May 1, 2022.

PLT:

The 83rd workshop will be Friday, February 25 at FSU. **Bernie** made a request to spend a little bit of the PLT funding on preparations for the event.

(Motion)

Ken made a motion to let **Bernie** spend up to \$100 on PLT event preparations, seconded by **Juls** and all were in favor.

Envirothon:

Bernie said the next event will be Wednesday, April 27 and asked about **Adam Miller's** help again, which **Dan** gave approval for. He was also asking for help from Board members. Both **Tom** and **Francis** talked about helping.

MD Forest Service Updates by Anne Hairston-Strang:

- New people and promotions for 15 people
- Retirements for 8 people

- Recognition Tree Farm Inspector of the Year Mike Kay and Northeast Mid Atlantic Cooperative Forest Management Forester of the Year Melissa Nash
- There were 69 fire assignments with 44 fire crew members, 2 dozers, 15 type six engines and 20 single resources all distributed in 11 states.
- New Opportunities – Economic Adjustment Strategies, 5 Million Trees, Family Forest Carbon and new grants.

5 Million Trees By Anne Hairston-Strang:

- **Anne** reported that the 5 million trees is on top of what we are already planting.
- There will be 13 new MD DNR FS hires, including 1 at the nursery and 3 additional people in each region. One will be placed at Pleasant Valley office.
- There will be 10 million dollars in grant program funding with the Chesapeake Bay Trust for Urban Forestry.
- Department of Agriculture will offer \$1000 signup bonus for CREP forest buffer plantings.
- **Anne** ended the presentation by saying that community connections and involvement will be the most important aspect in rolling out the 5 Million Tree Initiative.

Family Forest Carbon Program (FFCP):

- **Anne** talked about carbon and markets in general and companies like Amazon working with American Forest Foundation in purchasing carbon credits.
- **Dan** talked about program requirements and limitations and gave a few examples of how much landowners have been receiving. He said they had 14 interested landowners and 2 have signed contracts with more in the works. **Dan** talked about bring on board 2 forestry consultants, **Juls Wood** and **Shannon Farrell**, as Approved Family Forest Carbon Foresters.
- The relationship between American Forest Foundation, the consultants and the MD DNR FS is that when **Dan** receives a request from an interested landowner, **Dan** checks the data and if it's new data with no changes. If the data is good the project office fills out the planning form for the landowner to then receive an offer from the Family Forest Carbon Program. If the data is old or activities have taken place in the stand, then a consultant is brought in and paid by the American Forest Foundation via the FFCP to collect data so an offer can be made to the landowner.
- **Juls Wood** is involved in 2 data collections at this point and said that one of the practices is on hold while Growing Mature Forest continues.
- **Dan** said landowners need to understand how many carbon credits they have per acre and how much those carbon credits are worth, so they can make an informed decision about selling their carbon credits.
- **Steve** asked if we could have a speaker from the FFCP and **Dan** said he will make that happen.

Upcoming Events:

- PLT Workshop at FSU Friday, February 25
- State-wide Forestry Board Meeting Thursday, March 3 via Google Meet. **Ann Gilbert** will email out information
- Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting Wednesday, March 16
- Envirothon Event Wednesday, April 27

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

- **January 19, 2022** - Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting via Google Meets: **Dennis Bittinger, Sherry Frick, Tom Mathews, Brad Metzger, Marie Miller, Steve Resh, Ken Roberts, Juls Wood, Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun** and **Dan Hedderick** (All members attended)