

## Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board



### Minutes for Montgomery County Forestry Board Meeting on November 15, 2022.

Meeting called to order at 1:37 PM by Chair Jim Harris.

Last meeting's minutes were approved with corrections: It was noted that Lee Derby is the Supervisor of Environmental Literacy and Outdoor Education for Montgomery County Public Schools. The Agricultural History Farm Park was specified as the location of the State Forestry Board meeting that took place on 27 October, 2022. The attendance section was corrected to identify Dominic Quattrocchi as a board member.

#### Treasurer's Report

There was no activity in the account's balance since October 11, 2022; the balance remains at \$2,868.51 as of November 15, 2022. Joli McCathran requested estimates regarding appropriate mileage expenses for those volunteering to measure trees in Montgomery County (Joli McCathran and Vince Fillah). There was a motion to approve mileage expenses up to \$400, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Chair's Report

Jim Harris received an email inquiry about a specimen pin oak tree located near 3607 Cardiff Road in Chevy Chase, MD 20815. The inquiry expressed concern that the large and exceptional tree may be removed due to redevelopment. Both Joli McCathran and Joe Howard suggested that the tree be measured. Jim Harris received notification from Alison Pearce that the Audubon Naturalist Society has changed its name to Nature Forward.

#### Legislative Report

Laura Miller noted that she and Marian Honeczy met to discuss a recent urban tree canopy report. The report suggests that net loss of canopy cover will invoke new legislation. Amendments are proposed for the Montgomery County Forest Conservation Law. These amendments are directed to update the language featured within the law such that it is similar to that featured within neighboring counties' laws. These amendments are expected to pass after the new council takes office. Joli McCathran noted that a bill is being drafted to provide funding for students to attend Urban Forestry Camp. It was noted that money is being generated from the Climate Action Front and the 5 Million Trees Initiative to likely be spent on reforestation efforts in urban settings. It was noted that the Maryland Department of the Environment received \$1.5 million to spend on storm-water management and tree planting.

#### DNR Report

Kenneth Jolly has been assigned as the new Maryland State Forester, and Anne Hariston-Strang is the new Deputy State Forester. Interviews for the vacant ranger position for Howard and Montgomery counties have long concluded, however no candidate has been selected as of November 15, 2022.

#### Tree Planting

Tree planting will continue in the spring 2023. Two schools have been chosen to plant trees including Rocky Hill Middle School.

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### New Business

Joe Howard mentioned that he wanted to plant trees dedicated to Linda Pepe and Laurie Jenkins at Rock Creek Regional Park. He chose a buckeye tree for Laurie, and a Franklinia tree for Linda. Dan Landry remarked that competing interests exist between NRCC and Urban Forestry Camp due to recruiting from the same pool of students. Eddie Franceschi mentioned that WSSC Water will be conducting a pilot hunting program to begin on 29 November, 2022. The program is aimed to allow deer hunting on Tuesdays and Thursdays in areas where forest regeneration has been particularly poor. Carole Bergmann noted that she accompanied Joe Howard on a tree tour. Joli McCathran mentioned that NRCC now has applications available for next year's camp, and that their website is active. Vince Fillah found a shingle oak tree that is a Montgomery County champion. Brett Linkletter provided a summary of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation's work to (re)plant trees within county road right-of-ways. A webinar will be held Wednesday, 16 November, 2022 by the Harry Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology to discuss findings from a comprehensive study of Maryland's forests.

### Old Business

No old business was discussed.

The next meeting is scheduled for **10 January, 2023 at 1:30 PM**, at the Lathrop E. Smith Center library located at 5110 Meadowside Lane in Rockville, MD 20855.

Meeting adjourned at 3:08 PM.

### Attendance:

Jim Harris, Chair  
Joli McCathran, Treasurer  
Joe Howard, Board member  
Mary Howard, Guest  
Brett Linkletter, Board member  
Carole Bergmann, Board member  
Laura Miller, Board member  
Eddie Franceschi, Board member  
Dan Landry, Board member  
Lee Derby, Board member  
Christopher Barger, DNR Acting Secretary