

Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board



Minutes for Montgomery County Forestry Board Meeting – 14 February, 2023

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

Minutes from the meeting occurring on 10 January, 2023 were approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report

Joli McCathran spoke with Ashton Manor to obtain funding for one student to attend the 2023 Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC). Although the in-state tuition rate is \$500, Ashton Manor sent a check in the amount of \$650, and Joli mentioned that the surplus funding will be allocated to the Tolson Fund. Accordingly, the account's balance has increased from \$2,710.52 in January 2023 to \$3,360.52 in February 2023. Joli also mentioned that she applied for a \$5,000 grant from Pepco, and is awaiting response.

Chair's Report

Jim Harris announced that he signed two grant applications to fund the board. One application requests funding from Nature Forward, and the other from the Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee (MUCFC). The MUCFC grant application was passed along by Laura Miller via email, and requests funding to establish a food forest at Takoma Park Elementary School.

Legislative Report

The 2023 DNR legislative session is ongoing. Session updates are provided by Marian Honeczy, and forwarded to board members by Secretary Chris Barger. No other legislative news was discussed.

DNR Report

Maryland DNR is currently hiring various contractual positions.

Tree Planting

Tree planting will continue in the spring 2023. Laura Miller is coordinating with Rocky Hill Middle School in Clarksburg, MD to arrange planting.

New Business

Dan Landry mentioned that two students have accepted offers to attend the 2023 NRCC, and one student interview remains. Carole Bergmann commented on logistical aspects of establishing a food forest at Takoma Park Elementary School. She also mentioned in reference to the board's grant application that Nature Forward has contributed much for environmental stewardship including stream restoration and invasive species removal. Carole finally suggested that the board's tree-walk meeting occur in May rather than April. Dom Quattrocchi then suggested the meeting occurs in April with May as a backup option.

Lee Derby mentioned that he has been coordinating with Laura Miller regarding tree planting at Rocky Hill Middle School. Chris Barger dispersed reappointment forms for board members to complete and sign. Brett Linkletter announced that the Montgomery County GreenFest will feature an additional day of activity this year, and is set to occur April 22 – April 23, 2023. Brett

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mentioned that MCDOT contracted with Ashton Manor and the Chesapeake Bay Trust to plant 1800 and 400 trees, respectively. MCDOT will receive a \$362,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to serve equity focus areas of Montgomery County, and Casey will present a canopy award to MCDOT. The Kenwood neighborhood of Bethesda will receive 35 new trees. Brett also commented on the messy nature of food forests, the fact that trees are far ahead of schedule on growth degree days given the mild weather, and that the county will be planting more hackberry trees.

Joli McCathran mentioned that the annual spring state forestry board meeting will occur on March 9, 2023 at the Tawes building in Annapolis. Joli also mentioned that she asked Justin Arsenaul to send two recognition award nominations. Joli finally announced that after completing measurements, there is a new county champion dawn redwood tree, and a new state champion cryptomeria tree in Burtonsville. Joe Howard inquired about planning for the tree-walk meeting in April, and he mentioned that will coordinate with Carole Bergmann to plan the meeting further. Dom Quattrocchi expressed gratitude toward Lee Derby, Jim Harris, and Dan Landry for interviewing his son Eli to attend the 2023 NRCC. Dom also shared a picture of a champion chinkapin oak in Rockingham County, Virginia.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

The next meeting is scheduled for **14 March, 2023 at 1:30 PM**, at the Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center library located at 5110 Meadows Lane in Rockville, MD 20855.

Meeting adjourned at 2:44 PM.

Attendance:

Jim Harris, Chairman
Joli McCathran, Treasurer
Joe Howard, Board member
Carole Bergmann, Board member
Brett Linkletter, Board member
Dan Landry, Board member
Dominic Quattrocchi, Board member
Lee Derby, Board member
Christopher Barger, DNR Secretary
James Eierdam, DNR