

Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board



Minutes for Montgomery County Forestry Board Meeting – 11 April, 2023

Chairman Jim Harris called this meeting to order at 1:48PM.

The board approved the minutes from the meeting that occurred on March 14, 2023.

Treasurer's Report

Joli McCathran received a grant from MUCFC on March 20, 2023 in the amount of \$988.00, which was used for Takoma Park Elementary School mobilization. Joli also received a grant from the Rockville Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America on March 22, 2023 in the amount of \$500, which was allocated to the Tolson balance. The current combined balance is \$3,860.52 (a net increase of \$500 since the last board meeting).

Jim Harris granted Joli McCathran approval to pay a bill for the 2023 NRCC. The board has been awarded a grant from Pepco in the amount of \$3,000 which has yet to be received. Eddie Franceschi suggested that the board offer some token of appreciation to Ashton Manor Environmental and the Izaak Walton League of America for their continuous support and funding for the board. Joli concurred, and noted that she would determine the number of years the board has been receiving funding from these organizations.

Prior to the chair's report, Norman King mentioned the importance of having a physical deliverable such as a brochure in addition to the board's website to help the public better understand the board's functions, especially pertaining to champion trees. A protracted discussion regarding suitable media, printing logistics, and related matters for such a deliverable ensued.

Chair's Report

Chairman Jim Harris shared details with the board about his recent vacation to South America, including his sighting of an exceptionally-large monkey puzzle tree.

Big Tree Tour

The Big Tree Tour is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 12PM. Those participating will meet at the Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center.

Legislative Report

The board had a brief discussion about the DNR legislative report including the implications that more funding will be allocated toward forestry.

DNR Report

Aside from Chris Barger's commentary regarding the exceptional 321.5 acre wildfire that occurred at Soldier's Delight Natural Environmental Area on April 4, 2023, no significant matters were reported.

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Tree Planting

Tree planting¹ will occur at Rocky Hill Middle School in Clarksville, MD 20871 immediately following this meeting. Laura Miller is working on logistics for next year's tree planting.

New Business

Joli McCathran mentioned the loss of trees due to recent windstorms, including a county champion linden oak tree. Joli added that Holly Thomas petitioned that cookies be cut from the tree to commemorate it. Norman King remarked logistics of developing a deliverable that can help the public better understand the board's functions. Chris Barger reminded board members to complete their ethics disclosure.

Lee Derby inquired about the black tupelo tree to be planted in Silver Spring on April 28th. Jim Harris will reach out to Laura Miller to discuss logistics for the event. Lee also thanked Joe Howard for his recent botanical additions to the Smith Center. Eddie Franceschi noted with excitement that azaleas are blooming at Brighton Dam. Joli McCathran said that she will reach out to Brett Linkletter about trimming epicormic branches off the Goshen Elm tree.

Joe Howard motioned to vote Dan Landry as the board's Vice Chairman, and the motion passed unanimously. Joe then showed the board a cone from a sugar pine tree, and mentioned that John Muir regarded sugar pine as the best pine. Joe further noted that a fringe tree was planted for Laurie Jenkins. He wishes to plant another for Linda Pepe, and also wishes to formally dedicate these trees with plaques. Joe finally showed the board a book called *Around the World in 80 Trees*, and offered to let a board member borrow the book.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9 May, 2023 from 1:30 to 3:00PM at the Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center located at 5110 Meadowside Lane, Rockville, MD 20855.

Chair Jim Harris adjourned this meeting at 2:51PM.

Attendance:

Jim Harris, Board Chair
Joli McCathran, Board Treasurer
Eddie Franceschi, Board Member
Lee Derby, Board Member
Norman King, Board Member
Joe Howard, Board Member
Chris Barger, Board Secretary

¹ Trees have already been pre-planted. School children will simply be backfilling soil, mulching, and installing tree-protection material.