

## Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board



### Minutes for the Montgomery County Forestry Board Meeting – 10 October, 2023

Chairman Jim Harris called this meeting to order at 1:41 PM.

#### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joli McCathran was absent from this meeting, and no formal Treasurer's Report was presented. However, all account balances remain unchanged. The current unrestricted account balance is \$3,650.52, and the restricted account (Tolson Fund) balance is \$1,850.00, yielding a total account balance of \$5,500.52.

#### Chair's Report

Chairman Jim Harris has been in email correspondence with Norman King III, and Norman commented that he is working procuring name tags, vests, and other marketing materials that he will submit to the board at the following meeting. These materials are aimed to educate the public about the board's functions.

#### Legislative Report

Laura Miller commented on Montgomery County's new ban on gas-powered leaf-blowers. The ban is aimed to avoid operator health problems (associated with breathing exhaust fumes), and to improve energy efficiency. Laura also commented that legislation will be introduced to increase mitigation fees for the Roadside Tree and Tree Canopy Laws. The increase in mitigation fees is aimed to align the actual cost to plant each tree with required fees, and minimize future disturbances.

#### DNR Report

No DNR Report was presented at this meeting.

#### New Business

Natasha Shangold commented that she finished one round of forestry inspections, and will be undertaking new construction and conservation easement inspections. Dominic Quattrocchi mentioned that Prince George's County will close on purchasing 1,000 acres of forested land for conservation purposes; this land would have otherwise been developed. The purchase is funded by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Sugarloaf Mountain has reopened to public access. Approximately 600 acres of the Broad Run stream valley will be commissioned as conservation parkland.

Vince Fillah mentioned that he has been searching for new trees to measure with Joli McCathran, and also mentioned using social media to raise awareness of champion trees. Joe Howard mentioned that a new champion weeping willow tree measuring 16.5 feet in circumference is located in Pebble Brook at the eastern end of Randolph Road. Lee Derby will lead the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Smith Center, where Joe will set up a display. Joe also showed a book titled *A View from the Top*, detailing all fire towers in Maryland. Laura Miller received a grant from the 5 Million Trees Initiative to plant 1300 trees at schools in Montgomery County. The first tree planting is scheduled to occur on 1 November, 2023.

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The next meeting is scheduled for 14 November, 2023 from 1:30 to 3:00 PM at the Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center located at 5110 Meadows Lane in Rockville, MD 20855.

Chair Jim Harris adjourned this meeting at 2:26 PM.

### Attendance:

Jim Harris, Board Chair  
Vince Fillah, Board Member  
Carole Bergmann, Board Member  
Dominic Quattrocchi, Board Member  
Laura Miller, Board Member  
Joe Howard, Board Member  
Chris Barger, Board Secretary  
Mary Howard, Guest  
Natasha Shangold, Guest