

Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board



Minutes for the Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting – 13 February, 2024

Acting Chairman Dan Landry called this meeting to order at 1:35 PM.

Treasurer's Report

No account activity has occurred since 11 January, 2024. The total combined account balance remains at \$5,900.88.

Chair's Report

Acting Chairman Dan Landry mentioned that Laura Miller will have details forthcoming regarding upcoming tree planting events at Montgomery County Public Schools. So far, Dan mentioned that a tree planting demonstration is set to occur at Tilden Middle School scheduled for 13 April, 2024. Chairman Jim Harris is coordinating with Maria Maurus to arrange for tree identification work at Galway Elementary School. Dan Landry, Natasha Shangold, and Paula Perez volunteered to assist with the project.

Legislative Report

No legislative report was given at this meeting.

DNR Report

No DNR report was given at this meeting.

New Business

Harris B. Trobman introduced himself as a guest for the meeting, and he provided an overview of his professional work. Mr. Trobman works for the Division of Sustainability and Compliance with Montgomery County Public Schools, and oversees work pertaining to outdoor/environmental matters for 211 schools and external sites within the county. He has also been working with Montgomery Parks on various projects, and coordinating volunteer programs including Weed Warriors. He is also coordinating with Takoma Park Elementary School to create a food forest.

Natasha Shangold mentioned that she will represent her environmental team's panel in a discussion with Casey Trees about the City of Rockville's Tree Law. Natasha also mentioned that she received a personal letter written by a seventh-grade student with avid aspirations to combat invasive plants, and that she would reach out to the student.

Paula Perez mentioned that a \$200,000 grant was awarded to the City of Rockville by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to plant trees around a former golf course (now known as the Red Gate Park & Arboretum). The project will aim to reforest the landscape. Lee Derby mentioned that staff from the Montgomery County Public Schools' Outdoor Education Program attended a state-wide educational conference, and participated in several workshops and presentations.

Joe Howard presented the newly-engraved plaque for Linda Pepe. He mentioned that it is imperative to protect Linda's Franklinea tree this spring before deer begin to rub it. Joe passed around a coin that was forged with the Montgomery County Forestry Board's logo, and also passed around a poem called *Trees* by Joyce Kilmer. A brief discussion ensued regarding

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whether it would be feasible and appropriate to distribute such materials to the public as a means to advertise the board and its relevance. Dan Landry also suggested that the board might be interested in giving out seedlings to the public. Joe handed out blue ink pens to all board members and guests. The ink pens bear an endearing poem that he wrote for his wife Mary.

Carole Bergmann raised a toast to Mary Howard for all she has contributed to the Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board throughout the years. Joe Howard concluded by showing board members and guests some pictures of carvings of the Linden Oak Tree by Colin Vale.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 12 March, 2024 at 1:30PM. The meeting will be located at the Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center's library at 5110 Meadows Lane in Rockville, MD 20855.

Attendance:

Dan Landry, Acting Chairman
Joe Howard, Board Member
Mary Howard, Guest
Carole Bergmann, Board Member
Natasha Shangold, Board Member
Paula Perez, Guest
Lee Derby, Board Member
Harris B. Trobman, Guest
Christopher Barger, Board Secretary