

Minutes
Allegheny County Forestry Board
March 17, 2021 from 9:00am – 10:30am
Webex Meeting – Covid-19 Rules
To promote the stewardship, conservation and
sustainable use of forest resources in Allegheny County

Call to Order:

Chairman's Signature: _____

- The meeting was called to order by Secretary, Dan Hedderick for Chairman **Ken Roberts**, who was unable to attend, at 9:05am on March 17, 2021. Attendees included: **Tom Mathews, Bernie Zlomek, Sherry Frick, Dennis Bittinger, Steve Resh, Francis Zumbrun, Brad Metzger and Dan Hedderick**

- Not in Attendance: **Marie Miller, Juls Wood and Ken Roberts**

Goals and Annual Work Plan for the Board to meet for 2021
(Covid-19 may affect outcome):

- **Started** Develop the 2021 Goals and Annual Work Plan
- **Started** Raise funds to support Allegheny County Forestry Board
- **Started** Review positions held by the Board members
- Bring in new members
- **Started** Hold 8 local Forestry Board meetings and 4 special events
- **Started** Complete all financial disclosure forms
- **Started** Sign all Volunteer Forms
- **Started** Find, interview, approve and financially support 2 students for NRCC
- **Started** Promote outreach for NRCC
- Support NRCC at camp with volunteers
- Facilitate the Forestry portion of the Envirothon
- Organize, plan and co-sponsor with Allegheny Arts Council the photo contest at the Allegheny County Fair
- Facilitate 2 PLT Workshops
- **Started** Facilitate Heritage Legacy Tree Program
- Support Big Tree Program
- Support Cumberland Watershed Plan Implementation
- Support County and State in their efforts to implement land preservation programs
- **Started** Facilitate both webpage and Facebook links and keep them active and adaptive
- Look into new programs with guest speakers to keep members educated on what is new

Note: Goals will be listed for the Forestry Board to track their success and act as a reminder of needed accomplishments for the 2021 Annual Work Plan. The word "accomplished" will be placed in the front of each goal once it has been completed.

Dan Reminded the Board that there will be no in-person meetings or public events for the Forestry Board due to Covid-19

Minutes Reviewed:

Dan asked if everyone received the minutes from January.

(Motion)

Steve motioned to accept the minutes from January 27, 2021, **Tom** seconded it and all were in favor.

Dan thanked **Sherry** for setting up the Webex Meetings that are working well for all.

Financial Activities:

Bernie and **Francis** provided a report that the Lions Club donated \$500 to help put two students from Allegany County through NRCC. **George Gilmore** was responsible for pushing this through the Lions Club. **Tom** offered to write a thank you to the LaVale Lions Club for their donation and will send it to **Ken** for his signature.

(Motion)

Bernie motioned to activate new debit card with a purchase for PLT, **Steve** seconded it and all were in favor.

Natural Resource Career Camp (NRCC):

Steve reported that they have had regular meeting and pretty sure NRCC will occur this year.

There are 19 students signed up at this time. **Steve** will have the Mel position, **Rebecca**, responsible for promoting NRCC, reach out to our high schools. **Francis** will check to see if they can have **Peggy Weller**, granddaughter of **Fred Besley**, provide the student-of-the-week award at NRCC. **Francis** offered songs for the campfire. **Steve** will check on that.

(Motion)

Brad motioned to have **Rebecca** send information to local high schools, **Dennis** seconded the motion and all were in favor.

State Wide Forestry Board Meeting:

Francis reported he attended the meeting and said a few words about Program Open Space, listed awards that were received and by whom, possible purchase of Luke Mill, Big Tree website revised and new model for web page.

Francis also read **Bernie's** nomination for the Mel Award, which he received during the virtual meeting. **Bernie** thanked the group!

Tree Cookies:

Francis thanked all that were involved in helping with the LaVale tree cookie and listed all the historical figures that walk past that tree on the National Road. Also, the Board listed possible display locations for the 363 year old tree cookie including LaVale Library, MD DNR FS Allegany Project, Allegany College and Green Ridge State Forest. **Brad** also asked about the **Ray Johnson** tree cookie that is 560 years old.

Thank You for Growing Trees:

(Motion)

Steve motioned to have **Dennis** deliver thank you to those helping grow American chestnut trees, seconded by **Francis** and all were in favor. **Dan** is currently working with **Dennis** and **Ken** on getting this accomplished.

MD Forest Service & Forestry Board Update due to Covid-19:

Dan reported at this point the employees of the MD DNR Forest Service are on unlimited field time, but are limited on the amount of time to be spent in the office and are teleworking from home. **Dan** reminded the Board that there will be no in-person meetings or public events for the Forestry Board. He said we will have to stay with Webex meetings for now. **Kenneth Jolly** is still acting Director and State Forester.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30am

Upcoming Events:

- Next meeting will be April 27, 2021. Topic **Dan** will have **Matt Voithofer**, latest BIG TREE volunteer in Allegany County, join us via Webex to tell us about his adventures in measuring big trees in Allegany County.

Attended Events: (note, members need to attend at least 50% of yearly meetings to be in good standing)

- **January 26, 2021** - Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting via Webex: **Tom Mathews, Bernie Zlomek, Sherry Frick, Juls Wood, Dennis Bittinger, Steve Resh, Francis Zumbrun and Dan Hedderick**
- **March 17, 2021** - Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting via Webex: **Tom Mathews, Bernie Zlomek, Sherry Frick, Dennis Bittinger, Steve Resh, Francis Zumbrun, Brad Metzger and Dan Hedderick**