

Minutes
Allegany County Forestry Board
August 18, 2021 from 9:00am – 11:30pm
Allegany Arts Council
To promote the stewardship, conservation and sustainable use of forest resources in Allegany County

Call to Order:

Chairman's Signature: _____

- The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman **Tom Mathews** at 9:05 am on August 18, 2021. Attendees included: **Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun, Tom Mathews, Dennis Bittinger, Brad Metzger, Steve Resh and Dan Hedderick**
- Not in Attendance: **Ken Roberts, Marie Miller, Sherry Frick and Juls Wood**
- Special Guest: **Julie Westendorff** Allegany Arts Council, **Anita Simmons** City of Cumberland, **Lynn Keiter** accompanied by **Marsha Keiter** (photo award winner) and **Sara Barnard** (photo award winner)

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

- **Completed** Develop the 2021 Goals and Annual Work Plan
- **Completed** Raise funds to support Allegany County Forestry Board
- **Completed** Review positions held by the Board members
- Bring in new members
- **Started (5 meeting & 2 events)** Hold 8 local Forestry Board meetings and 4 special events
- **Started** Complete all financial disclosure forms
- **Completed** Sign all Volunteer Forms
- **Provided Financial Donation** Find, interview, approve and financially support 2 students for NRCC
- **Completed** Promote outreach for NRCC
- **Completed** Support NRCC at camp with volunteers
- Facilitate the Forestry portion of the Envirothon
- **Completed** Organize, plan and co-sponsor with Allegany Arts Council the photo contest at the Allegany County Fair
- Facilitate 2 PLT Workshops
- **Completed** Facilitate Heritage Legacy Tree Program
- **Completed** Support Big Tree Program
- **Completed** Support Cumberland Watershed Plan Implementation
- **On Hold** Support County and State in their efforts to implement land preservation programs
- **Completed** Facilitate both webpage and Facebook links and keep them active and adaptive
- **Started** 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.

Allegany County Fair Single Tree Photo Contest:

It was reported that 15 photos of a single tree were entered in the contest.

Tom presented two of the winners with their awards. **Lynn Keiter** received \$100 for first place and **Sara Barnard** received \$25 for third place. **Lori Krumpach** was not present and will receive \$50 for second place.

City of Cumberland Forestry Management Plan and Harvest:

Anita Simons provided the Board with an update on the City of Cumberland's watershed forest management. There was a successful harvest completed by Cessnas on 65 acres and a successful bid has been placed on a second sale of 63 acres by American Hardwoods/Blue Triangle. Anita also shared harvesting locations for the next 5 harvests out as far as FY 2027. Rob Pfaff assisted Anita in putting out the sales. Also, some 70 acres of invasive species was treated as pre and post-harvest activities. Due to the success, the City of Cumberland was able to hire an arborist to help out with urban forestry in the city; his name is **Blain Bender**. The extra help resulted in big improvements with tree removals and pruning, highlighting major safety improvements in Constitution Park. Hazardous tree reduction was completed in the park, removing hazardous trees and dead limbs over playground equipment.

Tom suggested drafting a letter to the City of Cumberland mayor to highlight **Anita's** work to be signed by **Ken Roberts**. **Steve Resh** will draft the letter.

Minutes Reviewed:

Dan explained that minutes from June had already been approved and sent in for the public record and asked if there was any discussion about approved minutes and there were none.

Financial Activities:

Bernie explained that **Francis's** Liberty Tree Program has brought in another \$340.

(Motion)

Francis motioned to accept the treasurer's report seconded by **Dennis** and all were in favor.

Liberty Tree:

Francis reported that only 30 seeds germinated from what he collected last year. He was able to plant another 50 trees this year, has another 200 requests, and will be going out to collect seed this fall.

Natural Resource Career Camp

Steve explained that Camp Hickory had 33 students signed up, 29 campers showed up to camp and 28 finished the week. There were three volunteers from the Allegany County Forestry Board that helped **Brad, Juls** and **Steve**.

Big Tree Program:

Matt Voithofer contacted **Dan** with a report on his big tree activities. So far, **Matt** has turned in 28 trees for the statewide list including black walnut, silver maple, eastern cottonwood, black cherry, yellow poplar, sycamore and northern red oak species. Also, 6 of the trees were considered County Champions.

Equipment needs – **Dan** mentioned that we approved the purchase of a new tape measure for the big tree program in the last minutes and provided a copy of the email to **Bernie**. **Tom** checked to make sure all was good with **Bernie**, and he said yes.

MD Forest Service Updates: (some new information since meeting occurred)

Dan reported as of this moment the Maryland Forest Service remains open and operating as normal for field offices.

Acting State Forester position has been rotated from **Kenneth Jolly** to **Anne Hairston Strang** since acting status is limited to one year. Rotations will continue until such a time that the state does a nationwide search and hold interviews for the position.

Green Ridge State Forest – **Jesse Morgan** is now acting Forest Manager for Green Ridge. **Dan** sent Jesse a note about the Vernon Gauss funds and for that to be spent down.

Urban Program – **Becky Wilson** will retire in November

Fire Program – **Randy Kamp** will retire end of the year

Frederick/Washington Project – **Mike Kay** will retire end of the year

Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 noon

Upcoming Events:

- Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 15, 2021, location will be outside and yet to be determined.

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, Marie Miller and Dan Hedderick**
- **April 27, 2021** - Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting via Webex: **Bernie Zlomek, Sherry Frick, Francis Zumbrun, Juls Wood, Ken Roberts, and Dan Hedderick**
- **June 2, 2021**- Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting via Webex: **Bernie Zlomek, Sherry Frick, Francis Zumbrun, Tom Mathews, Dennis Bittinger, Ken Roberts, Brad Metzger and Dan Hedderick**
- **July 19, 2021** – Allegany County Fair Photo Judging: **Brad Metzger, Tom Mathews, Bernie Zlomek, Dennis Bittinger, Juls Wood and Sherry Frick**
- **July 25 to 31** – Natural Resources Career Camp: **Steve Resh, Brad Metzger and Juls Wood**
- **August 18, 2021** - Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting: **Tom Mathews, Bernie Zlomek, Dennis Bittinger, Steve Resh, Francis Zumbrun, Brad Metzger and Dan Hedderick**