

CARROLL COUNTY FORESTRY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, March 23, 2021

PLACE: Virtual meeting

TIME: 5:00 PM

Due to the Coronavirus shutdown of state offices and to follow the state policy of social distancing, the Forestry Board conducted a remote business meeting via conference call using Google Meets.

- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Spaur at 5:00 PM.
- **Attendance** - Chris Spaur, Laura O'Callaghan, Geary Schwemmer, Donna Davis (Secretary), guests Bryan Shumaker and Mike Leuking.

Welcome and Guest Introductions: *Mike Leuking* is a graduate of University of Maryland in turf and golf course management. He is now the Director of Grounds for McDaniel College as well as responsible for a number of additional programs at the college. He also manages the college's farmland and natural areas, where riparian areas are being reforested with 1,160 trees and invasive plants control has taken place. Geary Schwemmer introduced himself to Mike while scouting for Big Trees on the campus.

Bryan Shumaker is the STEM Coordinator for Carroll County Public Schools. He has been the Boards liaison to CCPS for the Arbor Day Poster Contest for a number of years and supervises the tree planting activities at the schools. He has worked to establish school forests across the county. Bryan is interested in becoming a Forestry Board member.

Tree Campus USA: Mike Leuking has been working toward establishing McDaniel as a Tree Campus USA under the Arbor Day Foundation Tree City program, for 2021. Mike reviewed the requirements of the program. The college has established a Tree Board (of which Forestry Board member and Bartlett Tree Expert Paul Mullins is a member) and is developing a tree planting and a tree management plan. Bartlett has/will inventoried over 525 trees. Many trees will be tagged with barcoded tags that, when scanned, will provide students with detailed information about the trees. The college plants 10 trees each year for Arbor Day. The Tree Campus program also requires completion of a student learning project.

Opportunities for Board involvement with future projects:

- Bryan requested assistance in developing a list of appropriate tree species for a large planting at Hampstead Elementary School.
- Mike would like help with developing a list of native trees suitable for planting in Carroll County, with details of site requirements, size, attributes of each species.

College Intern Project: Laura O’Callaghan reviewed the draft she prepared for the Forestry Board student intern proposal. It could dovetail very well with the Tree Campus USA requirement to develop student learning projects at McDaniel. Laura will send the draft out to Board members for final review. The Board discussed presenting the proposal to McDaniel and Carroll Community College. Mile Leuking offered his support of the proposal at McDaniel.

Chestnut Seedlings: Brief review of the program. Seedlings are provided in bags of 50. Glen Ferencheck prefers that they be planted in groves of 50 seedlings and monitored for growth, but this is not mandatory. The data is sent to the American Chestnut Foundation. The seedlings are open pollinated, not registered back-crosses. Geary Schwemmer will send the program information to Mike Leuking. Bryan Shumaker mentioned that the CCPS has participated for many years, with established orchards at numerous schools. Donna Davis reserved 50 seedlings at the request of Jim Peters, CCPS, to replace missing trees at the school orchards. Geary ordered 50 and is looking for groups to plant them. Charlottes Quest Nature Center requested 25 to replenish their orchard.

Administration-

- **Review of February 2021 meeting minutes:** Chris Spaur requested a minor change to the NRCC 2021 information for better clarification: Change “Three out of four 2020 students have **applied**” to three out of four students have **re-applied**” . Laura O’Callaghan made a motion to accept the minutes as revised. The motion was seconded by Geary Schwemmer and passed.

- **Treasury Report:** provided by Treasurer Geary Schwemmer-

March 2021 CC Forestry Board Treasurer’s Report- approved as submitted.

- 31 December 2020 BB&T Statement Balance \$5,094.99
 - 2/19 Stripe Deposit (BYB shelter purchase): \$41.94
 - 2/22 Stripe Deposit (BYB shelter purchase): \$10.96
 - Withdrawals: \$ 0.00
 - 26 February 2021 BB&T Statement Balance \$5,147.89
- **Ethics Filing:** Chris Spaur reminded Board members to submit their 2020 Ethics filing by April.
 - **Vice-Chair Position:** Laura O’Callaghan volunteered to serve as Vice-chairperson. A vote by email request/nomination will be sent to all Board members by Chairman Chris Spaur.
 - **Website:** Donna Davis will continue to work with Vic Sanborne on the website rebuild. The Forestry Foundation is paying Vics webmaster fees. Vic will remain the webmaster until Nicole returns. Board members should email any material for the website to Donna. Members are asked to visit the site, review and make comment/suggestions for content. The website address has changed to www.carrollcountyforestryboard.com. (the only change is from .org to .com). The site will cost \$96.00/year to maintain as a .com. Laura O’Callaghan will provide her native plant power-point program for download to the website.

Programs:

MD Big Tree: Geary Schwemmer emailed a detailed activity report with pictures to Board members. He has added four more Carroll big trees (and county champs) to the register, including an American elm which was nominated by the landowner after reading the article in the Times newspaper. Geary offered to help with the tree inventory at McDaniel College.

2021 Arbor Day Poster Contest: Six books: *While A Tree Grew: The Story of the Wye Oak* were donated and personally autographed by the author, Mrs. Elaine Rice Bachmann, State Archivist with the Maryland Archives. A thank you letter was sent to her by Chris on behalf of the Board. Three books are for the 2021 winner and three will be stock-piled for the 2022 contest. All participants will receive the Arbor Day tree ID booklet *What Tree Is This?* Steve McDaniel is framing a copy of the first place poster for the artist. Spring Garden won 1st place state-wide for 2021. 15 trees/shrubs have been ordered for a school planting. Piney Ridge won 1st place in 2020. 15 trees/shrubs have also been ordered for their school planting. Bryan Shumaker is organizing the planting days for the schools. Dates TBD.

- **NRCC 2021:** Three out of four Carroll 2020 students have re-applied. One new student has applied. Donna Davis will send an email to Board members with the new student's application attached and arrange to schedule a date and time for the conference call interview with the student.

Wakefield Valley Park Development Plan: Chris Spaur reviewed the revised draft letter prepared by Jamie Weaver to the Westminster Parks Director. The Board suggested some minor revisions. Chris will send the letter back to Jamie and Donna requesting the revisions.

6:30 PM: Motion to adjourn was made by Chris and seconded by Laura. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 27 at 5PM (Google-Meets)

Submitted by DL Davis 3/24/2021