

## CARROLL COUNTY FORESTRY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021

**PLACE:** Westminster Library

**TIME:** 6:00 PM to 7:45 PM

The Forestry Board conducted a hybrid in person/ remote business meeting. All in-person attendees wore face masks per COVID protocol.

- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Spaur at 6:30PM
- **Attendance** – In person: Chair Chris Spaur, Vice-chair Laura O’Callaghan, Treasurer Geary Schwemmer, Secretary Donna Davis, Bryan Shumaker, intern Sydney Barrett. Via GoogleMeets: Roland Fish, Steve McDaniel.

### Administration-

- **Member Introductions:** Laura introduced student intern Sydney Barrett. Sydney is an Environmental Studies major at McDaniel College, specializing in Earth systems science, with a minor in biology.
- **Certificate of Membership:** Chris Spaur presented Geary Schwemmer with his Board appointment certificate and letter from the Director of the Maryland Forest Service.
- **Review/Approval of June 2021 meeting minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Geary Schwemmer and seconded by Laura O’Callaghan. Motion passed.
- **Treasury Report by:** Treasurer Geary Schwemmer-
  - No additional account activity since the June meeting report> Account balance as of the August 31 statement: \$3,868.61
- **Meeting Schedule Change:** The regular monthly business meetings will now be the first Wednesday of each month at 6PM. Meetings will be in-person with GoogleMeets attendance option.
- **Member Survey:** Review and discussion of the results of a comprehensive member survey Laura O’Callaghan sent out to all Board members and members at large. All participants were forwarded a summary of the survey results. Results were positive. Three members opted to resign from the Board due to schedules that will not allow meeting attendance requirements. However, they still expressed a desire to help on an as needed basis with special projects/ events/technical advice.
- **Website update:** Donna Davis reported that former Board member Alison Schilling has volunteered to be the new webmaster. Alison and Donna attended a one hour website training session with retiring webmaster Nicole Myers. The Board briefly discussed desired modifications & additions to the website (Info pages, blog page). Bryan Shumaker added that a marketing strategy is needed to draw viewers to the site.

### Programs/Updates:

- **Fallfest:** Logistics were discussed (work schedule, booth activities, booth info flyers available, tree sale... The Board viewed the tabletop display and made recommendations for improvements. Sydney Barrett will help with the display upgrades. Donna Davis has some pictures of the Board in action in her digital files. Booth set up will begin at 8AM (Donna, Geary, Meredith). FireWise and Smokey will be a booth attraction. A FireWise representative will attend. Bryan Shumaker volunteered to “help” with Smokey. Trees will be available for a \$5-\$10. Donation. Geary and Meredith plan to provide some Big Tree info and develop one or two games/activities related to trees. Laura and Sydney will write up info on the tree species available for sale.
- **MD Big Tree:** Geary Schwemmer provided a list of project ideas for the interns. He will email out dates for scheduled tree measuring outings for those who wish to participate. He will be hosting a planning meeting at his home with intern Meredith Kelly and Career Connections teacher Melinda Ditzen.
- **Student Interns:** The Board discussed additional intern work projects and scheduling.
- **Wakefield Valley Park update:** Chris Spaur provided an update on the Wakefield Valley Park and possible assistance offered by the Board. He received contact from Abby Gruber (City of Westminster Parks and Recreation) He is organizing a meeting with the City and County Resource Management. Board members will be notified once the meeting is scheduled.
- **BYB:** Chris Spaur provided updates for the 2022 Backyard Buffers tree give-away program. There are still a good number of shelters in the inventory so the Board will not have to purchase any this spring. He presented a suggested species list he and Jamie Weaver compiled. A motion to approve the list as submitted was made by Laura O’Callaghan. The motion was seconded by Geary Schwemmer and approved.
- **Preliminary Workshop Planning:** Chris Spaur has researched the availability of pavilions that have electric, bathroom access and room for a larger group. More workshop planning and discussion was tabled for the October meeting.

Due to the library closing time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, October 6, 6PM – Westminster Senior Center conference room.

**Action Items: All Board members to develop a list of possible local sponsors.**