

# DORCHESTER COUNTY

## FOREST CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD



### **DORCHESTER COUNTY FORESTRY BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 12, 2021**

**The meeting was held at Rick & Kathy Abend's farm at 1111 Taylors Island Rd. in Madison, MD and was brought to order at 1:00 p.m.**

**ATTENDEES: Scott Daniels, Beth Hill, George Radcliffe, Mike Asplen, Rick Abend and Agnes Kedmenecz**

**Scott introduced Agnes Kedmenecz as our newest Forestry Board member. Agnes works for the University of Maryland Extension Service where she works with the Maryland Master Logger Program, Maryland Woodland Stewards Program and other forestry related programs across the state. She is also a member of the Talbot Co. Forestry Board.**

**Minutes of the previous meeting held on December 04, 2019 (not a typo) were read and accepted. Motion for approval made by George Radcliffe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Asplen. Approved.**

#### **A. Critical Area (CA) Timber Harvest Plans:**

- 1. Vernon Cunningham – 46 Ac. on Ross Neck Rd. (36 Ac. In CA) Plan is to clearcut this very mature stand of loblolly pine. Property contains an active bald eagle nest. Leaving a 330' no**

**cut buffer. 50' and 100' buffers along tidal waterways. 23 Acres (33% of total timber) being left. Will be difficult to access much of the planned timber harvest area. Motion for approval made by Mike Asplen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Radcliffe. Approved.**

**B. Budget:**

- 1. Scott reported that our 1880 Bank in Cambridge has been merged into BayVanguard Bank. He reported a balance of \$2874.**
- 2. Our only expenditure was \$250 to Maryland Forestry Foundation for Teri Batchelor's memorial tree planted at Washington College. Teri's memorial dedication is being held on April 30.**
- 3. Beth made a budget request of \$1000 to Dorchester County in February. Awaiting their response.**
- 4. Scott previously sent an email requesting project suggestions for spending these funds.**

**C. Other:**

- 1. Fire Tower Project -- Phase 1 is to erect and refurbish the top 35' of the tower at the Church Creek Forestry Office property as an educational interpretive site for forest tower history. The survey stakes have been set. Funds have been approved for Phase 1, but work delayed due to Covid-19. Phase 2 will be to find a non-profit organization to sign a MOU to be able to apply for grants, open the tower, provide guided tours on a limited basis, school bus trips, etc. (Access is TBD.)**
- 2. Personnel:**
  - a. There was one applicant interviewed to fill Teri Batchelor's position and they declined the offer.**
  - b. Kathy Kroner, Wicomico Co. Ranger, retired last April. They are moving a Southern Maryland position to our area. Ryan**

**Galligan will be coming into that position, should be on board by the end of May, and will be living in the DNR house at Church Creek.**

**c. Glenn Therres is retiring.**

- 3. We received an email that we need to comply with the Open Meetings Act. We must post our Forestry Board Meeting Notices on line on the DNR calendar and our approved Forestry Board Meeting Minutes must be posted online within 30 days after the meeting. As Executive Secretary, Scott will be the point of contact with the Church Creek office as our mailing address.**
- 4. 4-H Forestry Program -- Agnes informed the Board about this new statewide Extension Service program. The current training runs Mar. 6 – June 23, 2021 (16 weeks) and is being coordinated by Agnes and Amy Lang, a 4-H leader in southern Maryland. The cost is \$40 plus a \$10 annual 4-H enrollment fee. There are weekly virtual sessions each Wednesday and monthly regional field sessions the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month. A MD state 4-H forestry contest will be held in June of 2021. Winners of this contest will have a chance to represent Maryland at the National 4-H Forestry Invitational at Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp in Weston, WV. (This competition is on hold due to Covid-19.) Maryland currently has 15 students (ages 14 to 18) in the program, none from the Eastern Shore. Our Board pledged its support as the program progresses, possibly doing a program here on the Eastern Shore in September -- visiting a sawmill, overnight at Thendara 4-H Center in Hurlock, visiting a Tree Farm, visiting Blackwater NWR, etc.**
- 5. George Radcliffe discussed the ongoing Maryland Breeding Bird Survey taking place 2020-2024. He is coordinating the program for Dorchester County. Agnes suggested tapping into the Maryland Naturalist Program.**
- 6. Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration at Spocott Windmill will be on April 17, 2021. George Radcliffe reported that it will be a scaled down version due to Covid-19. The windmill will not be**

**running. The Forestry Board will cover the cost of the electronic billboard advertising. 30 Backyard Buffer Bundles have been reserved.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.**

**After the meeting adjournment, everyone bagged seedlings for about 40 backyard buffer packets. (Scott, Beth, Agnes, Rick, George, and Kathy Abend distributed the packets and additional seedlings from the State Nursery at Spocott Windmill on April 17.)**

**Rick Abend  
Recording Secretary**

**Scott Daniels  
Executive Secretary**

**Approved by the Board :**

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