



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting September 13, 2021

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday September 13, 2021 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance either in person or remotely were: Bill Aiken, Bill Buckel, Mike Ferguson, Ken Fisher, Mike Kozier, Will Williams, Fred Eggleston, Mike Minnick, and Melissa Nash. Siera Wigfield, Senior Planner for Garrett County, also attended.

The agenda was approved following a few additions and a motion by Bill B. and 2nd by Fred.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved following a motion by Will and 2nd by Fred.

Bill B. gave the treasurer's report.

Forestry Board	\$6,126.45
MUCFC	\$180.00
NRCC	\$1,520.26
Workshop/Ed	\$543.11
Scholarship	\$1,430.00

There is still one outstanding check from the 2019 poster contest that has never cleared the bank. It will be written off at this point. A deposit was made to the MUCFC fund for \$180 toward mulch for the Town of Oakland project. The report was approved following a motion by Ken and 2nd by Fred.

Volunteer Hours:

The Board's hours since the last meeting were as follows:

Ken – 17	Mike K – 8
Mike M – 39	Fred – 10
Larry – no report	Will – 10
Bill B. – 43	Bill A. – 3
Mike F. – 11	Derek B. – 6 (via Bill)

TOTAL: 147 hrs.

Prior to discussing regular business, Mike M. introduced Siera Wigfield, the new Senior Planner for Garrett County. Siera discussed the Land Preservation Parks & Recreation Plan (LPPRP) that must be renewed every 5 years. She is working on the new draft of

the plan, which allows the county to continue to be eligible for Program Open Space funds. The county currently has an online survey open to gauge recreation needs of residents and visitors <https://www.garrettcountry.org/news/2021/08/take-our-recreation-survey>. The survey will remain open until October 1. As of the meeting there were over 450 responses so far. The current (2017) LPPRP can be found at https://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Documents/Stewardship/Garrett_2017-LPPRP-Final.pdf

She has been meeting with the municipalities in the county to determine their specific needs. She will seek Forestry Board input for the natural resources section of the plan. A public comment period on the draft version will be held over the winter.

OLD BUSINESS:

MFA Meeting

Mike M., Ken, Bill B. and Melissa attended. Many good ideas were presented, but we are still in need of a pulpwood market in western Maryland. The new Family Forest Carbon Program through TNC was discussed as well as a Woodland Stewardship Network Program designed to bring multiple landowners together to make for more economical forest management.

Water Wise

The program is live and landowners can request a visit to certify their property. Participation so far is unknown.

NRCC Wrap Up

Mike M. gave an overview of this year's camp. Melissa read a letter received from John Carr. His deposit can be returned. We have not yet received anything from Nate Brenneman. Applications for the 2022 camp should open sometime this fall.

Fair Wrap Up

The fair booth was well attended with approximately 900 visitors. There were 6 trees given away to folks who visited our booth via the drawing. Most folks were interested in the information on invasive species. On Tuesday, Board members turned 1,250 lb of potatoes into fries at the Rotary French Fry booth. Melissa will follow up with them if a check is not received by the October meeting.

Mike M. & Fred suggested developing a Forestry Board brochure to help people find information on available forestry programs.

The photo contest had 10 entries. Winners and awards presented were:

1st – Brent Friend \$50.00

2nd – Fontana Moreland \$35.00

3rd – Reid Sines \$20.00

Leaflets Newsletter

Melissa reported that another quarterly newsletter, now titled GCFB Leaflets, was sent.

NEW BUSINESS:

Autumn Glory

The Firemen's parade and craft show have already been cancelled. There is no word on the Farmer's Market Pavilion vendor event yet (where we set up in the past). A discussion was held on whether to set up a table to provide information and/or fundraise. Due to unknowns regarding COVID and limited board members available that weekend, it was decided to hold off this year.

Library Display

Fred asked if we had a library display this fall. Melissa advised that we are now only allowed 1 month/year due to increased demand for the space. She will confirm/schedule our 2022 month this fall.

Festival of Trees

Status of this event was unknown.

Trees for Schools

There are 240 3rd graders in public schools in the county this year. Ken suggested we make this year's Arbor Day tree handout open to home school 3rd graders as well if we can get the word to them. We could possibly set up a day for them to pick up their seedlings at Mt. Nebo. Mike M. also suggested including private schools such as the new Calvary Christian Academy. We will work on getting contact lists together. After some discussion on species, it was decided to order 500 white oak.

Fellowship Positions

The state association still has 2 fellowship positions open. Applications will be accepted until mid-October.

Chestnuts

Katia is giving a presentation on American Chestnut at the FSU Appalachian Festival.

Mountain Loggers

Upcoming events include meeting 9/14, elimination drawing dinner 10/23 (\$75/ticket), Log A Load for Kids auction 10/7. Since 1996, the group has raised nearly \$2 million for children's hospitals through the Log A Load program. Their golf tournament was held the first week of September.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be October 18th at 9am at Mt. Nebo. Note this is the 3rd Monday due to the Columbus Day holiday on the 2nd Monday.

Melissa Nash
Secretary

Upcoming Dates

October 1st – County recreation survey closes.

October 7th – Mountain Loggers Log A Load auction

October 15th – Forestry Board fellowship applications due

October 14-16th – Autumn Glory festival (limited events throughout county)

October 18th – Regular meeting

October 23rd – Mountain Loggers elimination dinner