



Harford County Forestry Board

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Harford County Forestry Board Minutes
September 14, 2021

The Harford County Forestry Board previously met virtually (due to COVID-19 restrictions.), July 13, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Present were Jim Sherring, Chairman; Danny Davis, Vice Chair; Ron Swatski; Rob Feldt, Acting Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Mike Gallegher, Geoff Graff, Mike Simini (Bel Air Tree Committee), Jenni Daniels, Harford County Planning, and Dan Lewis, Harford County Forester. Absent were Wendy Doring and Carole Andrews.

INTRODUCTIONS –Jenni Daniels introduced herself as a new member and works for the county’s Planning and Development Review section at P&Z. Daniel Lewis introduced himself as the new forester for Harford County, and will be taking over as the Executive Secretary/Treasurer, after Frank Lopez’s retirement.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Jim called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

The July minutes were reviewed, and accepted as correct. There was no meeting in August.

The treasurer’s report was given by Rob Feldt.

- There were no expenses or income reported.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

- Tree measuring completed.
- Jim mentioned that Harford Land Trust had purchased Belle Vue Farm, a large and historic farm in the southern part of the county.
- Jim reported he still needs to go and tag the chestnuts that were planted. He has the tags, just needs the time.
- Jim again requested the members to think about recruiting other members to the board.

URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

No Report – Position vacant. Jim asked if there were any volunteers.

HAVRE DE GRACE TREE COMMISSION

Carole reported the Tree Commission had met in August, and that a 5 year plan for planting trees for canopy growth was in the works. Joe Conaway is working on it.

BEL AIR TREE COMMITTEE

Mike reported the Tree Committee had met in-person on the 8th of August, and that Wayne Merkel had updated the list of big trees in town—removing those that had died and adding any new trees. The sycamore in front of the library still stands. Mike also reminded the board that Bel Air has a tree planting option for residents to plant trees in their front yards for free, to increase canopy coverage.

RURAL FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Danny reported no new items.

OLD BUSINESS

- The website was discussed and the Big Tree program page link should be added. The mission statement should be borrowed from the state foundation's page.
- The playspace at Eden Mill will be constructed September 25th. The board renewed its approval of the \$500 support for the playspace. Danny reported the woodworker will provide a log for a pedestal for the cookie to rest on. Danny will also provide a progressive imagery page to show the public how Eden Mill had progressed from fields to its current configuration. The county has the imagery already, and the board enjoyed looking at the imagery and change over time.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ron mentioned a podcast about chestnuts and history, and finds it very interesting and a good source of information.
- There was general agreement that the board should stay involved with Belle Vue Farm, and how the county uses it.

Jim adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Next Meeting: 6:00pm, October 12, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Feldt, Jr. - Acting Executive Secretary/Treasurer