

Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board



Minutes for Montgomery County Forestry Board Meeting on 10 January, 2023.

Meeting called to order at 1:33 PM by Chair Jim Harris.

Minutes from the meeting occurring on 15 November, 2022 were approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report

Joli McCathran wrote herself a check in the amount of \$158.00 to cover mileage expenses for travelling to measure trees. Joli requested Vince Fillah also submit his mileage expenses for reimbursement. A temporary deposit in the amount of \$0.01 was made by the Maryland Forestry Foundation. Accordingly, the account's current balance remains at \$2,710.52 (a net change of -\$157.99 from November 2022).

Chair's Report

Jim Harris spoke on behalf of Laura Miller mentioning that spring 2023 tree planting will likely occur at Rocky Hill Middle School in Clarksburg, MD. Jim requested that Secretary Chris Barger compile an official list of current board members. Eddie Franceschi suggested that a new directory of board members feature a column that indicates membership expiration. This feature would simplify tracking active membership, and in theory afford interested members renewal applications in a timely manner. Jim spoke on behalf of Laurie Jenkins to express her indecision about board membership due to scheduling conflicts. Jim mentioned that the 2022 filing period for the Maryland State Ethics Commission is now open, and advised board members to file their reports by 30 April, 2023. The board has received new applications for the 2023 NRCC session. Dan Landry discussed NRCC interview logistics with the board, and decided that conducting virtual interviews on a rolling basis is appropriate. Joli McCathran mentioned that she will contact Ashton Manor to petition funding for the 2023 NRCC session.

Legislative Report

The 2023 Maryland DNR legislative session will begin 11 January, 2023. Dan Landry mentioned that the Utility Arborist Association or some other organization will introduce new legislation to restrict mowing by local county ordinances to enhance pollinator habitat.

DNR Report

Marian Honecny has been promoted to Associate Director of the Maryland Forest Service.

Tree Planting

Tree planting will continue in the spring 2023; Rocky Hill Middle School in Clarksburg, MD is a likely site.

New Business

Mary Howard's niece took a beautiful photograph titled *Autumn Glow* at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve located in Albany and Schenectady Counties of New York State, and the photograph placed second in a local contest. Joe Howard gifted all board members an acrylic magnet featuring the photograph. Joe then showed a large piece of bark from a three-stemmed tulip poplar tree in Aspen Hill that was struck by lightning. Joe reported that the tree remains in good

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health despite being struck. Joe later showed his Greydon Tolson Forestry Stewardship Award from 2009 recognizing his service toward forest stewardship in Montgomery County.

Vince Fillah reported that he volunteered to measure trees with Joli McCathran through the months of November and December 2022. Eddie Franceschi expressed concern over a recurrence homeowners removing trees from their front lawns. Eddie also reported that the pilot hunting program held by WSSC Water resulted in 30 harvested deer over four hunting sessions. Dominic Quattrocchi mentioned that Montgomery Parks will be hosting its annual GreenScapes symposium sponsored by Brookside Gardens in February 2023. The symposium aims to provide new landscape design ideas to meet diverse suite of environmental goals.

Carole Bergmann expressed interest in leading a big tree tour with all board members. After discussion, the board has tentatively planned to conduct the tour concurrently with its meeting in April 2023. Dan Landry suggested that lunch may be provided on behalf of Pepco. Lee Derby mentioned that an upcoming deer hunt will occur in Rock Creek Regional Park.

Joli McCathran noted that the spring meeting of the State Forestry Board will feature topics including carbon sequestration. Joli also summarized the 2022 champion tree report: 35 trees have been registered, and at least 63 trees have been measured. There are 49 trees due for re-measurement along with some new measurements to occur in 2023. Joli mentioned a prospective nomination for the 2024 Greydon Tolson Forestry Stewardship Award, and suggested advertising the award to enhance public awareness. Dan Landry noted he will schedule two NRCC interviews, and is currently seeking adoption for a 71 pound dog that he has been fostering for five weeks.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

The next meeting is scheduled for **14 February, 2023 at 1:30 PM**, at the Lathrop E. Smith Center library located at 5110 Meadows Lane in Rockville, MD 20855.

Meeting adjourned at 2:41 PM.

Attendance:

Jim Harris, Chairman

Joli McCathran, Treasurer

Joe Howard, Board member

Mary Howard, Guest

Carole Bergmann, Board member

Eddie Franceschi, Board member

Vince Fillah, Guest

Dan Landry, Board member

Dominic Quattrocchi, Board member

Lee Derby, Board member

Christopher Barger, DNR Secretary

James Eierdam, DNR