

Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

130 McKinneytown Road

North East, MD 21901

(p) 410-287-5777

<http://www.cecilforestryboard.sailorsite.net/>



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 7th, 2024

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station

Attendees:

Gabrielle Oldham	Ron Anderson	John Bennett
Kathie Jarmon	Katie Kranich	Mike Morgan
Matt Spiroff	Tom Frederick	Emilio Concari

Gabrielle brought the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

The June 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the board via email on 7/17/2024.

Treasurer's report

- John provided the treasurer's report.
- No new charges or withdrawals were made from the Board's accounts.

Maryland Big Tree Program Update:

- John provided the MBTP report. A copy is provided below:

July Big Tree Report

Cecil – John conducted the planned Big Tree tour in Harford and Cecil Counties for members of the **Natural History Society of Maryland** on July 12th. Seventeen members signed up; 15 arrived at the first stop and 4 left the tour due to the intermittent rain. The group shortened the number of planned tour stops and cancelled the picnic lunch at the Donaldson Brown Center.

STATE – 3 trees were newly measured in July. Two are in Anne Arundel County and are privately owned. One tree was newly measured in Montgomery County. The two AA County trees are a silver maple and southern red oak. The tree in Montgomery County is an American beech.

At the recently held Summit, some new rules were adopted regarding permission forms for privately-owned big trees:

Some questions came up recently in regard to the Big Tree Program and how the committee is allowed to operate on private land. The questions below are ones that were proposed and discussed with leadership as well as our lawyer.

1.) In regard to the Big Tree permission form for accessing private land, are signatures required by all owners for land in a trust?

No, only one signature of a trustee is required.

2.) Are parties signing on behalf of a landowner allowed?

No, the owner of the property must be the one who signs the permission form.

3.) Is a digital signature allowed?

Yes, documents with an e-signature are allowed if a wet signature can't be obtained.

4.) Does the Department of Natural Resources need to maintain copies of the signed permission forms from landowners?

No. These documents will be held by the Big Tree Committee and should be available online within an internal drive that has restricted access to active members of the committee.

Silver Maple



Southern Red Oak



American Beech



Figure 1. Trees referenced in the MD Big Tree Program Report.

Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC) Update:

Gabrielle provided the update.

- NRCC 2024 was a great success and concluded with no major issues. New camp staff and support from the DNR were greatly appreciated throughout the week.

Website Update:

Ron gave the update:

- The July meeting minutes were uploaded to the board's website on 7/15/2024, and the August meeting agenda was added to the website on 8/1/2024.
- At the July meeting of the board, Ron reported that there was one minor problem with using the board's website. The issue that arose is that users of the site have sometimes received a warning message when accessing the site. Ron has since identified the issue - it was related to the prefix of the website URL – should be "http:" and not "https:" since there is no exchange of password, personal information, or purchasing data. Correct URL prefix (or no prefix at all) should result in users no longer receiving the warning message.

Old Business:

- Gabrielle further reported on the 2024 Maryland Forestry Board Summit after reviewing her notes from the meeting.
- One topic from Gabrielle's Forestry Board Summit recap included the Community Forestry Catalyst Fund. This spurred further discussion on the topic and interest from the board members to locate a potential project site within Cecil County.
- The board discussed the Garrett County Forestry Board's Big Tree Calendar at the July meeting of the board. A member made a motion to seek further information from the Garrett County board to determine feasibility of a Cecil Big Tree Calendar. The board unanimously agreed. John plans to reach out to Melissa Nash, the Garrett Board's Secretary, to obtain more information about how the Garrett County calendars were made and to determine feasibility of a Cecil version.
- National Night Out – The National Night Out in Elkton, MD, was hosted by the Elkton Police Department and was held on Tuesday August 6th. Gabrielle and Emilio attended the event to represent the Cecil Forestry Board. Their report of the event was that it went very well, and they were able to interact with many children and adults alike.
- At the Maryland Forestry Board Summit in June, the Allegany Forestry Board donated descendants of a Liberty Tree to Boards with representatives attending the summit. Gabrielle accepted the tulip poplar tree on behalf of the Cecil Forestry Board. The board made a motion to have the tree planted at the Black Hill Ranger Station, in a location to be determined by project staff. The motion was unanimously approved by the board. The board will also wait for the tree to become established (approximately 1 year after planting) before seeking to install special signage regarding the tree's lineage.

New Business:

- An inquiry was made from DNR staff about using the Cecil Forestry Board's tree species identification game at the state fair. The board discussed and gave permission for Matt and

Emilio to use the game at the fair if the DNR can determine logistics related to getting the game to and from the fair for their respective shifts.

- The need to update the board members' contact information has been identified. Matt will be reaching out to board members to have them provide updated contact information.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 PM.

The next meeting will be held on September 4th, at 6:00 PM.