

Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

130 McKinneytown Road

North East, MD 21901

(p) 410-287-5777

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday September 3rd, 2025

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station

Attendees:

Ron Anderson John Bennett Dori Murphy

Kathie Jarmon Matt Spiroff

Call to Order

Ron brought the meeting to order at 6:12 PM.

The August 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed by the Board by email on. John made a motion to approve the minutes. Ron seconded the motion. All other Board members voted in favor of the motion.

Treasurer's report

John provided the treasurer's report:

- No new Board expenses were incurred in the month of August 2025.

Maryland Big Tree Program

John Provided the Big Tree Program Report:

September Big Tree Report

CECIL – I have received nominations for two yellow poplar on August 8th. I sent Board members the photos and suggested to the owner the trees may be a tad too small to qualify. I asked him for additional photos. The owner has not responded.



Figure 1. Trees referenced in the above Big Tree report.

STATE – **The Big Tree Centennial Contest** began on May 24th. To date there have been 6 enquiries but no qualifying nominations. **90** new nominations have been made for trees outside the contest area since May 24th. **13** have been measured; two did not qualify. Sara Kramer, DNR Forest Service, has extended the Contest deadline thru December 31. I have not seen any official announcement.

I was part of a meeting on August 28th regarding a possible **Big Tree Centennial event** in Western Region. **THAT EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED.** The event was originally planned for the Kitzmiller Botanical Garden in Garrett County, but Melissa Nash was unable to confirm reservations with the Kitzmiller officials. I previously suggested the event be held in City Park in Hagerstown. I contacted the City Park officials about reserving two pavilions. I needed a

certificate of insurance to complete the reservations. None was forthcoming nor was there any communication. Anne said that Forest Service funding has delayed any action. The Washington County Forestry Board declined to manage such an event and suggested it be held as part of the State Fair.

At the same meeting Ashley Triplett-Peltzman and Joli McCathran reviewed plans for a calendar celebrating the USA 250. Joli plans to use living Bicentennial Trees. There are 8 trees where we have permission to list them as “public access”. She suggested creating some other public access trees as “new” Bicentennial Trees. I asked about permission to use privately-owned trees like the Brick Meetinghouse white oak without checking with the owner. After considerable discussion, Anne said there needs to be some sort of outreach. Joli volunteered to do so. I asked that the above white oak be excluded from the list as per the Cecil Board’s discussion. I indicated I have designed my own calendar that would be limited to historic trees—living or dead. Ashley said the projected price would be about \$25 per calendar. There was some concern expressed about the price.

4 trees were measured in August: An American basswood in Frederick (public access). A horsechestnut and sycamore in Carroll (private) and a southern red oak in Calvert (at an elementary school).



Figure 2. Trees referenced in the above Big Tree report.

Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC) Update

There was no NRCC update this meeting.

Website Update

Ron provided the report:

- The August Meeting Minutes and the September Meeting Agenda were added to the website.

Old Business

- General discussion regarding re-measuring of MBTP listed trees.

New Business

- Rob Feldt of the Maryland Forest Service shared a document regarding the removal of the Black Hill Ranger Station fire tower with the Board. The document also requested public comments from those interested. A publicly available version of this document with similar information can be found on the internet.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 PM.

There will be no October meeting of the Board. The next meeting date is Wednesday November 5th at 6:00pm.