

October 3, 2022 Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards, Virtual Board Meeting via Zoom 1:00-2:30 pm

Attending: Robin Hanes, Barbara White, JoAnn Dalley, Michelle Cormier, Alison Brill, Penny Kaiserlian, Kathy Nepote, Mark Zollinhofer, Anne Benham, Vanessa Hurst (2022 training class member)

Secretary: Alison Brill

The motion was made, seconded, and passed with two abstentions to adopt the minutes of September 2022 board meeting as submitted.

President's Report: Robin Hanes

Despite Hurricane Ian causing nasty weather in Charlottesville, the fall tree sale was another huge success. All but four trees were purchased, meaning that CATS has sold 724 trees in 2022 for total income of \$7,725. The recent fall tree sale numbers amount to 334 plants for \$3,800 of that total. The average cost per tree sold has risen to \$10 as CATS moves into selling larger specimens.

CATS is one of the only sources for native trees in the area, with affordable pricing, also. CATS should, therefore, be prepared to host large numbers of buyers going forward.

In addition, a couple of positive feedback messages from buyers came in through Square.

Robin thanked everyone who volunteered. She underlined Phyllis's excellent, new "crowd control" setup and mentioned Alice Harrington's clever way of assuring that the tents did not blow away.

The new CATS bumper stickers were available at the fall tree sale, but only one sold. The Board discussed other methods of distributing them.

A motion was made to place the bumper stickers at the cashiers' table at tree sales and make them free to those who purchase trees and say they will use them. The motion was tabled until Tim and Mary can be present.

Robin welcomed Vanessa Hurst, current trainee.

Past President's Report: Barbara White

Barbara reported on the grants she has been submitting.

CATS received \$5,977.50 from Virginia Trees for Clean Water. These funds are earmarked for 25 trees to be planted at Mint Springs and 20 trees to be planted at Darden Towe.

CATS has requested, but not yet received, a \$1,200 mini-grant from Virginia Trees. The purpose of these funds is to purchase CATS nursery supplies (pots and soil) and trees for the nursery, books for the library, and custom-printed rain gauges with the CATS logo. The rain gauges cost approximately \$4.50; CATS can sell them for \$5.

Incoming President's Report: JoAnn Dalley

The 2023 positions of President Elect, Education Committee Chair, and Communications Committee chair remain unfilled. JoAnn may attend the committee meetings to get a sense of who the active members are. Kathy will mention these opportunities to the new trainees at the upcoming invasives removal workshop. There are a number of precedents for newly certified trainees taking leadership positions.

Treasurer's Report: Michelle Cormier

Michelle sent a complete set of financial reports to board members before the meeting.

Today's account balances:

\$12,282 checking account
\$32,135 money market

Year-to-date income amounts to \$32,766 while expenditures total \$16,500 (rounded). Therefore, YTD surplus income over expenses equals \$16,300 (rounded).

In anticipation of larger outlays for planting in the fall, Michelle would like to leave the checking account balance at \$12,282. The Board concurred.

Michelle wanted to apprise the Board of a discrepancy of \$10 from the fall tree sale. She has spent time with Phyllis tracking the mismatch but cannot find it exactly. The Board agreed that she need not spend any additional time looking for the root of the discrepancy.

Robin noted that cash/check and credit card usage at the fall sale seemed to be about equivalent. Michelle's impression is that more people paid with cash than before, but she would have to look into that.

Payments Michelle made this month:

\$182 two-gallon pots for the nursery
\$152 100 stakes and tree tubes
\$250 Communications – Cville tree sale advertisement
\$48 Education – pruning books

The credit card has an unpaid balance of \$428 that Michelle will pay soon, as well as a pending charge of \$48 related to the tree sale.

Robin purchased two-gallon pots for the nursery, but has received permission from the vendor to hold off on paying for them because the funds should properly come from the mini-grant mentioned above.

Communications will be credited \$5 for the income from the one sold bumper sticker.

Education Committee: Kathy Nepote for Tim Maywalt and Mary Spears

The training class is progressing well. The group, who are active and enthusiastic, is positive about the hybrid format.

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New class members will be added to the membership list. Otherwise, this is a quiet period for the communications committee.

Projects Committee: Kathy Nepote

Upcoming activities include invasives control at NE Park and Jackson-Via the following week. In addition, new trees will be planted at Jackson-Via. Kathy plans to contact some UVA students to see if they would help.

Tree Commission Report: Mark Zollinhofer

The Commission is in a quiet period except for the subcommittee that's addressing policies regarding the new zoning.

Mark's term expires at the end of November. It will be the CATS Board's responsibility to nominate someone to fill the position since the Tree Commission is required to have a liaison with CATS. This needs to be addressed at the November CATS board meeting.

The Board discussed possible individuals to fill that vacancy. Perhaps Jean Umiker-Sebeok, who is already a member of the Tree Commission, but that would require her position on the Tree Commission to be changed. So, this is up in the air for present, but Kathy will mention this to her (Jean is a current CATS trainee).

Mark emphasized the importance of a CATS liaison to the Tree Commission at this important time while new zoning codes are being considered.

Robin thanked Mark for all of his work.

Communications: Penny Kaiserlian

Penny brought up the topic of the new tee shirts order, which Lily Engle will be handling. The Board discussed background colors, fabric choice, sleeve length, and the like. V-necks were beat out by round necks, and cotton was preferred over a fabric blend. The clay color for the background was not popular. Mary has suggested new background colors. There was interest in sweatshirts as well.

Penny will ask Lily to get quotes and Mary to participate in choosing a new background color. The Board will be asked to vote on a new background color and the membership will be asked to vote on shirt sizes.

Librarian's Report: Kathy Nepote for Anne Benham

Anne has been very active tabling at various events, including one at the Wool Factory and the upcoming Crozet Arts and Crafts Fair. Her efforts have yielded a number of new signups for the CATS email list. The Crozet Arts and Crafts Fair also has a raffle, for which Kathy will give them a redbud.

Kathy mentioned that CATS needs a table and requested that it be added to the budget. Also, the trifold CATS presently has can be hard to use – perhaps someone could investigate alternatives.

Unfinished and New Business:

Memorial Trees: There was continued discussion of memorial trees. Although each situation is unique, the Board agreed that CATS needs guidelines from which to begin when approached by a party wanting to have us plant a memorial tree.

Tim needs to be involved, so JoAnn and Barbara offered to work with him.

Associate Members: **A motion was made, seconded and approved with one abstention to approve as Associate Members the following individuals:**

Ellen Powell

David Powell

Katlin Mooneyham Dewitt

Steve Carroll

It was noted that Steve Carroll lives out of our area, and may not even wish to be an associate member. Perhaps Tim should follow up with this.

Piedmont Botanic Garden: The Piedmont Botanic Garden has asked CATS for support in their stream restoration project, which will involve the removal of a large number of trees. The Board discussed the project and stream restoration projects in general, in which Barbara has been involved. Barbara's first impression from the printed plan is that it seems good but for a lack of enough herbaceous plants.

Robin, Barbara, JoAnn and Michelle will visit the site before CATS commits to support it.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Brill