

June 5, 2023 Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards Virtual Board Meeting via Zoom 1:30-3:00 pm EST

Attending: JoAnn Dalley, Robin Hanes, Gregg Korbon, Michelle Cormier, Alison Brill, Mary Spear, Kathy Nepote, Barbara Monfort, Barbara White, Libby Gretz, Helen Gregory, Jean Umiker-Sebeok

Secretary: Alison Brill

**The motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the 2023 May minutes as submitted.**

President's Report: JoAnn Dalley

JoAnn commented that the annual picnic held the day before was a big success.

The Board discussed what and whether to retain minutes, correspondence, etc. in hard copy, virtually, or both. Since Chris Van has taken over Martha Orten's previous role, he should probably be consulted. CATS's accountant sent Michelle suggested retention and destruction policies, but Barbara W. added that there are different requirements for the grants.

Mary brought up a question regarding CATS getting a second Zoom account, explaining why she thought it could be helpful. Other board members have experience using one Zoom account with multiple, rotating hosts. It was decided that this discussion would continue offline, particularly how to construct the Zoom account so that multiple meetings can be held simultaneously.

JoAnn requested that everyone log their hours promptly.

Another member requested that the membership meetings be recorded. The pros and cons of doing so has been discussed and was considered further. JoAnn said she would discuss this possibility with Chris Stroupe.

Past President's Report: Robin Hanes

Tom Wild has finished repairing the bench seat for the Grove.

Robin reported that she is working on new sprinklers for the nursery with the hope that her watering crew will be able to water less.

President Elect's Report: Gregg Korbon

The new hats made with fabric that retains less heat (like runners' hats) have arrived. He is kindly donating this shipment to the organization, and wants to start by giving one to each board member and committee chair. The Board discussed what to do with them: whether to sell them (and for how much), where to keep them, etc. Robin offered to keep them at her house. Mary offered to keep the t-shirts and older hats.

It was decided that Mary would find a volunteer to take over the merchandise responsibility that Penny used to fulfill.

Treasurer's Report: Michelle Cormier

Michelle emailed all board members her treasurer's reports for the last month.

Based on the previous conversation, Michelle asked whether she should have a separate line item for income from promotional items – yes.

Michelle reported that the problem that occurred the previous week with the CATS TIF subscription has been rectified. She will request that the \$29 late fee assessed incorrectly by TIF be removed. She is also going to set up paperless statements to make sure all statements and correspondence come to her without fail.

Michelle transferred \$8,000 from the CATS checking account to the money market account.

Eventbrite yielded \$263 in donations in the month of May.

The second installment of \$3,663 from the Virginia Trees for Clean Water grant has come in. Barbara clarified for the board how CATS keeps its records regarding how grant money is spent.

Account Balances:

\$5,426	Checking
\$40,138	Money market

Expenses this month include: \$317 for soil, \$433 for signage for the Notable Trees project, \$604 for canvas bags, and \$165 for eye loops.

No donations other than the EventBrite ones came in during May.

Education Committee: Barbara Monfort

Barbara reported that Chris Stroupe and Natasha Heller have finalized the next few months' membership meeting speakers.

Kathy and Allen led a walk at Darden Towe over the Memorial Day weekend with 12 attendees each day.

Two walks through the Belmont neighborhood drew 9 people on Friday and 14 on Saturday.

Kathy's Trees and Wildlife presentation on May 9 had 61 in her audience.

Upcoming on June 27 will be Emily's tree ID by season summer talk with the corresponding tree walk on July 1.

The UVA tree walk will be repeated July 16.

There are no tree basics classes until October.

Emily has been keeping in touch with the potential new tree walk leaders.

So far, 16 people have signed up for the fall 2023 tree steward training.

Barbara is following up with the idea of having more members trained to do tree measurement; this might be blended with the Notable Trees project.

Communications Committee: Mary Spear

Notification of the opening of the 2023 training class has gone out to all of the usual places.

Mary will send emails about Emily's summer tree ID soon.

Tabling was cancelled at the Crozet art fair due to weather; the event at Riverfest was rescheduled; tabling at Tufton didn't go as well as hoped so CATS will not be tabling there in the future.

Anne Benham would like to retire from managing tabling events. The hope is that two or three other volunteers would take over to co-manage tabling by finding new opportunities and delegating the tasks. Mary will send a letter to the membership asking for volunteers to step up.

The website redesign is coming along: the site has been moved to a new hosting service; Emily joined the work group; new pages are being added and others are being updated, with text first and visuals to follow; Mary is contacting the people most relevant to various pages; and Suzanne Freeman will take over coordinating the blogging and communications on the website. There is still a lot to do.

CATS has 159 followers on Eventbrite, 222 on FaceBook, and 292 on Instagram.

The next tabling event on the calendar is the Albemarle County Fair.

#### Projects Committee: Kathy Nepote

Kathy reported that she has been working with Chris Gensic and Steve Gaines with regard to the MOU. There is work to do to clarify the issue regarding volunteers under the age of 18, especially when parents are not present.

Upcoming projects include weeding and mulching at Darden Towe, Jackson-Via, Chris Greene Lake, Mint Springs, and Ivy Creek. The committee meets June 14 so check TIF after then.

JoAnn is comfortable with the way the MOU is being drafted. But there is more to do. CATS also needs to pass it by its insurance company since the City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle have been asked to be added to the policies.

#### Tree Commission Liaison: Jean Umiker-Sebeok

The new tree list is almost complete and contains more information about the species included.

Spring tree planting saw 164 planted, 80% at schools.

Funds were found for watering the new trees through September 2024.

There will be targeted invasives removal being done in July and August.

The City has applied for a \$300 IRA grant to cover the cost of updating the City's tree canopy analysis, the urban forest management plan, and the urban forest inventory.

Her TC committee is researching various urban reforestation plans around the Commonwealth to gather information and ideas from other municipalities. They are also communicating with other area nonprofits about what they'd like to see happen and whether they would like to participate in a broad coalition focused on restoring the urban canopy.

The zoning rewrite has progressed to Module 3, which still needs quite a bit of work. The Tree Commission has suggested several changes, such as that a permit be required for removal of any tree over 8 inches in diameter, that developers be mandated to pay into a fund if they remove large trees or destroy trees marked for preservation, etc. On June 14, there will be a public open house. One can also comment online.

Additional/unfinished Business: JoAnn Dalley

JoAnn set the July board meeting for July 10 because of the July 4 holiday; she set the September board meeting for September 11 because of Labor Day. There is no board meeting or membership meeting in August.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Brill