



An Annapolis Conservancy Board Meeting was held on March 13, 2025 at 5:30pm EST.

Attendees

Members: Jack Turner (Chair), Lynda Frost (Vice-Chair), Patrick Browning, Karen Jennings, Tom Lippert, Sally Albright, Aaron McCrady

City Staff: Dylan Laconich (Environmental Programs Coordinator), Michael Lyles (City Attorney)

I. Call to Order

Chair Jack Turner called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM. He greeted all attendees and confirmed that everyone received the agenda and had access to the Google Drive, where supporting documents and materials were stored. Jack expressed the importance of reviewing these materials ahead of time to enhance the productivity of their discussions.

Jack formally welcomed new board members, Sally Albright and Aaron McCrady, sharing his excitement about their involvement with the board. He acknowledged their expertise and potential contributions to the Conservancy's initiatives.

Aaron McCrady introduced himself, detailing his professional background in finance, specifically in climate finance, and his experience in ecological restoration. He shared that he resides in the Homewood neighborhood of Annapolis and has been actively engaged in projects aimed at forest restoration within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Sally Albright followed by sharing her role as the Outreach Coordinator for the Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration. She mentioned her extensive background in education, outreach, and grant management. Sally expressed her enthusiasm for supporting the board's goals, particularly in the context of conservation easements and environmental education, and emphasized her familiarity with local habitats through her fieldwork.

II. Approval of ACB Minutes

To streamline the administrative tasks, Jack reviewed minutes from previous meetings and sought motions for their approval.

March 14, 2024: Karen Jennings motioned to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Lynda Frost, the motion was approved unanimously.

May 9, 2024: Karen Jennings motioned to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Lynda Frost, the motion was approved unanimously.

September 12, 2024: Lynda Frost motioned to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Karen Jennings, the motion was approved unanimously.

III. Duties & 2024 Goals

1. Solicit the Dedication of Properties to the City

Jack led a discussion on proactive strategies for identifying new properties for dedication as conservation easements. He introduced the idea of an Interactive Greenways Map, which could visualize potential conservation areas and engage the community in identifying additional sites. A proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County was discussed to formalize collaboration on conservation efforts.

2. Administer and Manage Properties

Jack provided an overview of ongoing coordination with the Maryland Resource Re-entry Center (MDRRC). The board recognized the importance of addressing existing data gaps regarding properties and outlined next steps related to various sites, including The Gardens of Annapolis and compliance checks for Thomas Woods. Karen Jennings motioned that the Board recommend that the City pursue an easement “as soon as possible” at the Gardens of Annapolis location, Lynda Frost seconded, the vote was unanimous.

Easement Inspections

A detailed examination of easement inspection protocols followed. Jack noted the necessity for updated forms to enhance the board's effectiveness in monitoring easements, particularly in identifying invasive species and other environmental issues. The digitization of forms was mentioned as a potential enhancement to streamline the reporting process and improve data collection.

Community Engagement

Sally provided insights on community engagement efforts and shared updates regarding the Save Our Trees initiative alongside Brian Adams from the SRA. She detailed their ongoing coordination for an event at the Children's Museum, aiming to engage community youth in conservation activities. The

board discussed the relevance of hosting community forums to foster broader public engagement and outreach, encouraging input and ideas from both new and existing board members.

3. Preservation Goals and water quality

The board discussed a new pilot easement initiative aimed at promoting the preservation of environmentally sensitive lands. Jack emphasized the need for identifying potential easements to support the board's goals, focusing particularly on the College Creek headwaters and the SRAP's Weems Creek, designated as a top conservation priority. The initiative aims to align conservation efforts with local policy and community needs.

4. Recreational Resources Development

Jack provided an update regarding the Kingsport Easement and the ongoing efforts concerning the Hawkins Cove/Truxtun Connector Trail project. He highlighted the significance of maximizing recreational opportunities through partnerships and proposed brainstorming ways to expand outdoor activity options and public access.

IV. Updates & New Business

Jack reinforced the message of openness and collaboration among board members, emphasizing the importance of each person's contributions. He encouraged new members to actively participate in discussions and to take ownership of specific projects or initiatives based on their interests.

Jack reiterated his plan to distribute the meeting minutes along with the next meeting's agenda in one packet, making it easier for all members to prepare in advance for discussions.

Adjournment

Jack entertained a motion to adjourn, which was made by Lynda Frost, and seconded by Sally Albright. The motion passed unanimously, the meeting was formally adjourned at 7:10 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on May 8, 2025 at 5:30pm via Zoom.