

## **Meeting Minutes from Caring for Creation Apr. 13, 2021**

**Opening Prayer/Poetry:** Rick Voight- "Ode to Dirt" by Sharon Olds

**Treasurer's Report:** Apr. Balance = \$373.45

No changes since Feb.

(List of checks: Jan. 2020 reimbursement to Vickie \$145.00 for Taco soup; donations late Feb. 2020 to Episcopal Relief Dev. \$300.00; July \$300.00 to Eliz. River Proj. and \$50.00 to Dave for Heifer Internat'l; we also donated to the Ches. Bay Foundation and Lynnhaven River NOW)

\*\*Let's give \$100.00 to Episcopal Relief Dev. from the flower sale.  
Nauticus -Planet or Plastic- running all month (still?)

**New potential project: planting live oak trees around the South side of the Hague.**

The side is caving in. It is bare, with an old broken side wall.

\*\*Let's write the city and see if the city would accept the project. We could sell oaks to parishioners. Would we ask the Parks and Rec Dept?

\*\*friendsofliveoaks.org – group in Va Beach (advised by books from Botanical Gardens). Va Beach distributed 900 trees as part of their flood mitigation improvement plan.

Arbor Day- Apr. 30<sup>th</sup>- ask permission to plant some trees.

**New Speaker Bureau idea:** Someone from the Native Plant Society or from the Botanical Gardens could talk about logistics- which plants to put in the sunlight vs ones to put in the shade.

\*\*Related question: what plans does the Building Committee have about landscaping after the reconstruction of the church is completed?

\*\*More thoughts about Andria McClellan's presentation?

**Story telling project. We need your experience.** Rick and Dave both have shared stories. Dave presented an intro with information about his work with trash clean-up on Granby Street. Rick's was "A Winter Walk" with photographs. Both gave us really good ideas about how to proceed. Dave will help others who need technical assistance making a video. We want to put them on Dropbox so people can see them. (We hope for more once the weather improves.)

**Report on Earth Day:** Dave and Paul tell how the work with the Sunday School kids went. A big thank you to Dave and Paul for doing that! They sent out 40 envelopes to kids with a sheet of stickers and a packet of seeds. They get the kids to tell them which items to recycle.

**Recycling plastic bags:** Food Lion and Harris Teeter both recycle bags. CHKD Thrift Store reuses plastic bags. Plastic container bin in the Lychgate Tower entrance?

**Clean the Bay Day:** June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Volunteer Graphic Designer:** Nicky Watson has said that she can help if we need any graphic work.

**Earth Savers 2020 Update.** Pat King has passed them on. Weekly posting rather than monthly- a new way to post them since Pat wants to publish them eventually.  
-Someone to approach Jackson Davey to include on his podcast occasionally, if appropriate.

**Plant Sale 2020-2021** Kathy Ryan

Sales numbers- \$66.69. We can continue to order from Brent and Becky's. There is no cut-off date. 25% of the sale goes to us. Please support Caring for Creation by purchasing bulbs and other gardening needs. See the catalog for Brent and Becky's! Go to Bloomin Bucks. It is amazing!!  
We want to top our Fall Sales.

**Biodegradable vs Styrofoam take out containers:** Mary Anna

I have given Norfolk Public Schools 200 biodegradable take out containers to test out. They are using them in their Central Office. They work well, except when there are certain sauces.

I have asked Granby Go Green to help me in continuing to put some pressure on the Child Nutrition specialists to find ways to use more earth-friendly take out materials. Frequently leaders listen to the students' requests. We will continue to advocate on that front this Spring and next Fall.

\*\*We can also talk to political leaders and write them about changing the state's laws concerning Styrofoam.

Irene Wenger will send pictures of Restaurant Depot options (near Haynes on Virginia Beach Blvd).

**Book and film recommendations:**

Joan Atkinson forwarded the recommendation Under a White Sky that discusses technological advancements that will help the environment. It is by Elizabeth Kolbert.

\*NPR has also done a review about the 6<sup>th</sup> Extinction

Desert Notebooks- author spent time in Joshua Tree National Park and the Mojave Desert  
"Kiss the Ground" Netflix film (80-90 mins long)

**Comments on Current Issues and Ongoing Projects:**

The Sierra Club is working on Social Justice issues as well.

President Biden is putting back into place many regulations which will restore environmental protection.

**Adopt-a-Spot** - Dave and Paul are considering resuming in June at 9 am on Saturdays. Our designated spot is Ward's Corner and Granby High.

**Dog Waste Bag Station** - Kim M and Tom Ham get the bags and replenish the station for use by dog owners who have forgotten to bring bags on a dog walk along the

Hague. The bag holder is across the street from CSL, across from Fairfax. No change there.

**Exciting news:** Rich has a honeybee hive in his backyard now. Good luck!!

**Suggestions for new projects/activities:**

Check website, [episcopalchurch.org](http://episcopalchurch.org) Click on Ministries, then choose Creation Care. Advocacy on State level to move away from fossil fuels and coal  
Sunday Forum: Other Environmental Speakers, topics of local Mass Transit, Resilience (Sea Level Rise Flooding)  
Review Susan Broaddus' list of environmental speakers and Andria McClellan, member of CSL

**Other New Business.**

**More of an online presence on the CSL website-** Are we also uploading the mission statement?

**Reaching out to more members:** What would attract more members to come to the meetings?

**More on the Storytelling project -** Dave discussed 3 foci: loving formation, liberating advocacy, and life-giving conservation. There are many practical ideas on the Episcopal website about what we can do, but the Coronavirus limits us. This is a good time, though, for us to share stories, either individually or in pairs. We hope for 6-10 people to share their thoughts about the awe-inspiring or life-changing experiences that you have had out in nature.

Could Emily add the prompts into the CSL connect? We would send it out to the parish.

People can send their videos to Dave.

**News from Vickie about oyster beds at the new apartment complex on the other side of the Campostella Bridge-** the contractor installed oyster beds all along the shore line (was careful about the needs of the wetlands). Please stay tuned. Vickie will follow up about oyster bed restoration.

**Next Meeting: June 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>?, 2021 7 pm** WELCOME to ALL!!  
(June 8<sup>th</sup> is Election Day- primary)

**Conclusion:** Rich Voigt

Cheerfully submitted, Mary Anna White

**Officers:** Agreed Rules: Only accepting the position for 1 year.

Coordinator: Dave Cass

Secretary: Mary Anna White

Treasurer: Rich Voight

Earth Savers Articles: Pat King

Speaker Bureau: Susan Broaddus (with Irene)