

Meeting Minutes from Caring for Creation May 11, 2021

Opening Prayer/Poetry: Rick Voight- Mary Oliver's poem "The Summer Day"

Treasurer's Report: May Balance = \$273.45

\$100.00 has been sent to the Episcopal Relief Development from the Flower Sale

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.

**Irene is talking to the city about this project.

**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.

New Speaker Bureau ideas: 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.

-Someone from the city could talk to us about the trees.

-Paul Olson from the ODU research team.

**Whoever we ask, we will need to coordinate with Win.

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

Earth Day: Dave and Paul spoke in the Sunday School classes about recycling. They worked with kids in groups of 3. One of the kids was excited about a bird feeder that he had made out of a plastic bottle.

Adopt a Spot at Ward's Corner: Experimental litter pick up recommencement on June 19th at 9 am. It takes 1- 1 ½ hours. We usually do it once a quarter.

Clean the Bay Week: May 31st – June 4th- Just an announcement. As a group, we are working in the Ward's Corner area.

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.)

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?

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

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 am planning to buy another round of biodegradable take out containers.

Any suggestions for businesses to approach about using them?

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

Brainstorming from the floor about possible new projects:

Follow-up on the diocesan letter and see what other churches are doing. Ask person in the diocesan office how we team up with other churches' Caring for Creation groups. Dave is sending a letter about that.

Concern about environmental racism- toxic dumps in neighborhoods of people of color. Vickie reports that the city is already working on the Indian River project. The Ingleside area is working on that. The city is planning to put a park in as a rain garden to absorb the flooding.

We could support Keep Norfolk Beautiful. They are always looking for volunteers to help with the gardens around the city. There is one on Church St.

CSL's community garden also can use volunteers. We are giving away the fresh vegetables to the homeless.

Check website, episcopalchurch.org Click on Ministries, and then choose Creation Care.

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 6th 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:

Continuing the online presence on the CSL website-

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

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

Next Meeting: June 9th, 2021 7 pm WELCOME to ALL!!
(June 8th 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 Voigt

Earth Savers Articles: Pat King

Speaker Bureau: Susan Broaddus (with Irene)