

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SHENANDOAH COUNTY CONSERVATION
EASEMENT AUTHORITY

March 27th, 2024

A regular meeting of the Shenandoah County Conservation Easement Authority was held in the Community Development Conference Room, 600 North Main Street, Woodstock, Virginia on March 27th, 2024.

CEA Members present: Chair Dee Hockman, Vice Chair Doug French, Kelly Watkinson, and Planning Commissioner Debbie Keller.

CEA Members absent: Supervisor Josh Stephens and Marla Mooney.

Others Present: Tyler Hinkle County Planner, McKenzie Allen Associate Planner.

Chair Dee Hockman called the CEA meeting to order at 5:42 pm.

1. **Agenda**

Chair Hockman asked if anyone would like to make a motion, Vice Chair French made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Chair Hockman seconded the motion. All in favor. This motion carried.

2. **Minutes**

Chair Hockman asked if anyone would like to make a motion, Vice Chair French made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Keller seconded the motion. All in favor. This motion carried.

3. **Public Comment**

No comments.

4. **Shenandoah Valley Conservation Collaborative**

Mr. Hinkle refreshed everyone that there is \$4.5 million available for easements in the region and that they are currently working with Kevin Tate on reviewing the potential for Steve Bower's easement.

5. **CEA Funding**

Mr. Hinkle noted that the CEA has \$380,000 to use for conservation purposes across the County and will receive up to an additional \$25,000 for the next fiscal year.

6. **Discussion on CEA PDR 22-02-01**

Mr. Hinkle provided an update on the proposed easement and provided an overview on the draft deed of easement and the signed offer letter. He noted that this would go to the Board of Supervisors for information on April 9th with potential action April 23rd.

Kelly Watkinson made a motion to approve the purchase of development rights for part 1 of PDR 22-02-01. Vice Chair French seconded the motion. All in favor. This motion carried.

7. **Discussion on potential staff training**

Ms. Allen provided an overview of potential staff training opportunities by joining the Land Trust Alliance for an annual cost of \$300. Members expressed interest in supporting staff training and stated they would like to support such efforts. Commissioner Keller made a motion to use \$300 to pay for membership with the Land Trust Alliance. Chair Hockman seconded the motion. All in favor. This motion carried.

8. **Shenandoah 2045**

Mr. Hinkle noted that a presentation was provided to the Planning Commission on March 7th and that all members are welcome to attend the upcoming workshops as they work through edits on the plan.

Next Meeting: June 5th, 2024. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM

Minutes recorded by Tyler Hinkle

Mission statement of the CEA: "To retain the rural character, ensure agricultural sustainability, and protect historic and natural resources in Shenandoah County by promoting holding/co-holding and purchasing Voluntary Conservation Easements".