



Shenandoah County Conservation Easement Authority

Office of Community Development
600 North Main Street, Suite 107
Woodstock, VA 22664

www.shenandoahcountyva.us/committees/cea

MEETING MINUTES

September 3, 2014; 9:00-11:00 AM

Board Conference Room

CEA Members present: Chairperson Kelly Watkinson, Bud Griswold, Vice-Chairperson Dee Hockman, and Leon Smith

Others Present: Patrick Felling, Jed Rau, and Crystal Copenhaver

Call to Order

The meeting was brought to order by Chairperson Watkinson at 9:00 a.m.

Approve Prior Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the CEA meeting on June 4, 2014 were approved as amended.

Discuss Proposal for Board to Dedicate Roll-Back Tax Collections to the Easement Program

A discussion of the dedication of roll-back tax collections to the Easement program ensued. The committee decided they would ask for two options:

1. All future roll back taxes allocated to the easement program.
2. The easement program would receive the first \$50,000 of roll back taxes and also receive an allocation of 50% of collections exceeding \$100,000.

Chairperson Watkinson will present the allocation options of roll back taxes to the BOS with favorable support from the committee and/or community.

Easement Updates

a. Winkelman Property

Mr. Felling stated there were no updates.

b. Tisinger Farm

The owners are no longer interested in pursuing an easement at this time.

c. Dietz Tract

Mr. Felling stated the Dietz family had purchased this property of 267 acres because they did not want it developed. They are interested in pursuing an easement to preserve the property. They approached the Office of Community Development about the process. Mr. Felling put them in contact with other easement contacts. They will work with DOF to complete the easement.

d. Proposal RE: Parcels in New Market Growth Area

Mr. Felling stated there was a proposal for easements by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation and landowners within New Market annexation area. The landowners wish to protect the property, but the property is in the growth area and would not be in accordance with the County Comprehensive Plan. SVBF will request support from the Town for the easements.

e. Island Ford Farm Stewardship Visit

Mr. Felling joined Jed Rau from Potomac Conservancy in a stewardship visit to the Island Ford Farm. They spent four hours visiting with the landowners and touring the property. The CEA will be involved in the follow up with the landowners.

Other Business

Chairperson Watkinson would like to ideas for other funding sources.

Chairperson Watkinson stated the County paid for a training class in Harrisonburg on meeting facilitation; Chairperson Watkinson and Vito Gentile attended.

The next CEA meeting is scheduled for October 1st.

Meeting Adjourned