



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

January 6, 2016, 5:00 PM

Board Conference Room

CEA Members present: Chairperson Kelly Watkinson, Co-Chairperson Dee Hockman, Doug French, and Leon Smith

Others Present: Garrett Morgan, Tracy Lind (Potomac Conservancy), and Brenna Menefee

Call to Order

The meeting was brought to order by Chairperson Watkinson at 5:30 PM.

Approve Prior Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the CEA meeting on November 4, 2015 were unanimously approved by all members upon fixing the acronym for VDACS.

Meeting Schedule for 2016

Recommendation to meet every other month from 5:00-6:30 pm as follows,

January 6, 2016
March 2, 2016
May 4, 2016
September 7, 2016
November 2, 2016

There is the potential for a meeting between May and September if there is something that needs to be discussed as there are no meetings during the month of July.

Money Received

Garrett let members know that the CEA received money from the Virginia Department of Land Conservation. The check was in the amount of \$1600.82. It was a tax credit for easements that went through from 2012 to 2015. The money went to the general fund as directed by the VDLC.

Farm Transition Workshop

Garrett went to the workshop hosted by the Valley Conservation Council. Meeting topics included the possibility of a 30 year easement and the creation of informational handouts for easements. The next workshop should be in February.

Spending and Rollback Clarification

Garrett clarified that rollback taxes are automatically allocated to a separate CEA line item in which the board does not need to vote on. The board only needs to vote if money is going to be spent. Mandy Belyea, Director of Finance, has verified this information.

Mapping Recommendations

Garrett created a series of maps to share with the CEA committee. They show various places of interest in the county such as, public service areas including a 1 mile buffer, agricultural and woodland zoned districts, water resources such as wetlands, streams, and the Shenandoah River. Also outlined are the current state registered easements, battlefields, Agricultural and Forestal Districts, soil quality throughout the county, and subdivisions.

The maps should help in pointing out areas of interest. Recommendations for additional maps included:

Carse layer	View shed layer	Navigable water ways
Wildlife habitat	Scenic by-ways	Streams
County/State Parks		

Zoning Ordinance Renewal

The Easement Authority Zoning Ordinance may not have been officially changed. Kelly recommended that Garrett check with Patrick Felling, former County Planner, to see if changes were ever approved. If not, it will need to be added to the agenda at some point in 2016.

Potential for an Outreach Event

Tracy made the recommendation of an outreach event using grant money from The Potomac Conservancy. Recently, The Conservancy partnered with Frederick County CEA and held an outreach event at a local Cider Mill. They presented various maps and points of interest in Frederick County. Kelly recommended Swover Creek Farms and Brewery owned by Dave and Lynn St.Clair. They grow a lot of their own berries and recently started growing their own hops. The money from the Potomac Conservancy can go towards local food and drinks, with the exception of alcoholic drinks, to have at the event and invitation materials. Garrett mentioned opening it up to Jenna French with the tourism department.

Tracy mentioned that various committees throughout the area attended the event in Frederick County and spoke briefly. Some of those committees included The Virginia Division of Forestry, VOF, Potomac Conservancy, and the Historic Shenandoah Valley Battlefield.

Tracy recommended choosing a date prior to June as the money expires then.

Other Business

The next CEA meeting is scheduled for March 2nd. *Meeting Adjourned.*