



Shenandoah County
Conservation Easement Authority
Office of Community Development
600 North Main Street, Suite 107
Woodstock, VA 22664
www.shenandoahcountyva.us/conservation/

MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2013; 9:00-11:00 AM

Board Conference Room

CEA Members present: Supervisor Dennis Morris, Planning Commissioner Leon Smith, Chairperson Kelly Watkinson, Vice Chairperson Dee Hockman, Cindy Dellinger, Bud Griswold, and Doug French

Others Present: Patrick Felling, Bobby Clark and Crystal Copenhaver

Call to Order

The meeting was brought to order by Chairperson Watkinson 9:00 a.m. with an overview of the agenda.

Continue Discussion of Easement Program Ordinance Revision

Mr. Felling presented a red-line version of the conservation easement program ordinance showing edits and a revised ranking criteria score sheet showing what the changes would be. An extensive discussion of the proposed changes ensued, and a number of modifications were made to the discussion draft. Chairperson Watkinson asked all requested changes be sent out to all members for review before next meeting.

Discussion - Funding Request BOS

Mr. Felling noted there was an opportunity to get matching funding from the state, potentially \$100,000. The easement authority has always had the goal that whatever local funds are spent they are matched at least 8:1. Without state funds that makes the match difficult. Chairperson Watkinson suggested discussing how we can ramp up outreach and an educational program, maybe using remaining CEA monies for this. There also maybe some grant opportunities for outreach and education. There are ways to do easements with no County money. There needs to be a strategy for moving forward even without County funding, and the CEA should continue to show success with the program. Mr. Felling stated departments submit budget request information in December. Commissioner Smith stated we need to jump in there and make a request. Vice Chair Hockman asked if we could still ask for a percentage of the roll back taxes. Mrs. Dellinger stated the money could be appropriated any time during the fiscal year; there can be a line item appropriation. Commissioner Smith indicated that such a request would not be raising taxes. Mrs. Dellinger stated that the justification of the budget request should be made clear, that conserved lands save tax funds. Mr. Felling asked if CEA would like to make a request to

be a part of next year's operating budget versus tapping into the roll back taxes that are available. Vice Chair Hockman asked why CEA couldn't do both. It was agreed to bring the request to the work session that roll back taxes collected be allocated to CEA. All members plan to attend the work session on December 5th at 4:00 p.m.

Other Business

Next meeting December 4th 9 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned