



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

MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2017 5:00 PM

Board Conference Room

CEA Members present: Chairperson Kelly Watkinson, Doug French, Leon Smith, Cindy Dellinger, and Supervisor Steve Baker

Others Present: Jill Jefferson, Staff
John Hutchinson- Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation
Tracy Lind- Potomac Conservancy

Call to Order

The meeting was brought to order by Jill Jefferson at 5:05 PM. The role of note taking was discussed. Community Development staff can take minutes if no CEA member is available. Jill will record the minutes for the February meeting.

Approve Prior Meeting Minutes

Cindy Dellinger made a motion to approve the minutes for the CEA meeting on November 2, 2016; the motion was seconded by Leon Smith. Kelly Watkinson noted all in favor and meeting minutes were approved.

County Easement Update

Jill Jefferson, County Planner, reported on accompanying a Virginia Outdoors Foundation site visit of the Hawkins Pleasantdale Farm. Copies of the site visit report were reviewed and discussed. It was in agreement all terms of the easement were being adhered to.

CEA Strategic Plan Goals

Ms. Jefferson facilitated a brainstorming session to set goals for the CEA strategic plan. The following is a summary of the session.

Vision for Future – By 2045:

- Protecting available acres/parcels that host forest, ag, battlefields, riparian buffers, unique flora and fauna (“critter sites”) (Critical Conservation Areas).
- 80% all battlefields protected in easements by 2045.
- Intense use of agricultural BMPs on all protected easements.
- Make a living off eased lands (if desired).
- Direct growth to towns and growth areas.
- Promote robust agritourism.

- Extensive CEA partnering in concert with other County programs –
 - Tourism
 - Ag & Forestal District program
 - Green Infrastructure
 - Parks & Rec
 - WRAC
 - Land Use
 - PDRs
- Extensive CEA partnering with other organizations –
 - Adjacent County CEAs
 - Realtors
 - Potomac Conservancy/ Valley Conservation Council / Virginia Outdoors Foundation / SVBF
 - State Agencies – DCR and DOF
- Sustainable healthy CEA program with dedicated funding
- Make farmland accessible and affordable for future generations
- Diverse, healthy and enhanced ecosystems with:
 - Clean water
 - Sustainably harvested forests
 - Fostering wildlife
 - Flourishing environs throughout the County

CEA Outreach

Ms. Jefferson will develop outreach materials during the summer 2017 for CEA members to review by early autumn.

Summary:

1. Jill to provide an outline of proposed dates to complete the Strategic Plan in 2017 will be provided April 5th for CEA consideration.
2. Outreach materials will be prepared in summer 2017.
3. Add Comprehensive Plan wording that relates to these visions and code narratives that align with these visions.

Other Business

The next CEA meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2017 at 5:00 PM; and continue meeting every other month.

Meeting Adjourned 6:40 PM.

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”.