

CITIZENS FOR FAUQUIER COUNTY

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Piedmont Environmental Council Board Room

March 18, 2019

Present: Jim Stone, Les Cheek, Jonathon Nuckles, Kevin Ramundo, Doug Larson, David Norden, Sally Semple, Amy Trotto, Mary Page, Ken Alm, Ginna Wilson, Dave Mailler, Julie Broaddus, Jim Rich, Sue Scheer, Hope Porter and Susan Russell. Absent: Mimi Abel Smith, Harry Atherton, Chris Bonner, Rick Carr, Yak Lubowsky, Mary Root, Jessica Swan, Feroline Higginson and Julie Bolthouse.

LAND USE

BOS - Mr. Cheek reported: 1.) the BOS deferred action on approving alternative-type sewer and water facilities in rural areas. Approval of these should be only allowed in the event of failing drainfields. We are concerned approving alternative sewer and water systems in rural areas would promote development. 2.) In regards to broadband, the BOS has not defined "target areas." This needs to be addressed. There appears to be no concern about historic areas or view sheds in determining "target areas." PC - CFFC has sent a letter to the Planning Commission to recommend they deny the application for a Special Exception for 55 events per year with a maximum of 200 attendees at the Great Marsh Estate in Bealeton. We asked for a great reduction in the number of events and the size of the events because of traffic concerns. Overall, the application needs more work.

REGULAR MEETING

Mr. Cheek opened the meeting at 1:05 P.M. The minutes of the February 18th meeting were approved as written. The finance report was accepted as written. Board members asked that the investment account balances be included in the finance report. Ms. Wilson agreed to do so in future reports. Ms. Wilson recommended that we stop paying outside vendors to handle some of our mailing expenses because we can save money by doing some of the work ourselves. She also asked that Board members help pay the annual expense for our Officers and Directors Liability Insurance. It would cost each member approximately \$40.00 per year. The Board unanimously voted to spend \$750.00 for the development of a program for sending out an electronic *Monitor*. At the next Board meeting, we will discuss a template for electronic e-mailing.

Walker Drive - Prior to the Board meeting, Ms. Semple supplied Board members with a copy of her request for a \$5000.00 donation to help finance an appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court on a Walker Drive Fauquier Circuit Court Decision. Last year, the Board approved a donation of \$5000.00 for the purpose of challenging the Walker Drive development proposal. During the discussion at this month's meeting, Mr. Larson expressed his concern about losing our 501(c)3 status if we contribute funds to people or persons rather than another non-profit organization. It was decided to seek legal advice before we release any funds.

CFFC Branding – Ms. Broaddus opened her discussion on branding and the tone of the branding, a concept of how we want to be perceived as an organization, by pointing out some of the problems with the 50th Anniversary magazine. The main objection to the magazine is the number of inaccuracies within the text. Attempts by Board members prior to the magazine's publication to correct mistakes had been ignored. The Board unanimously voted to refrain from any distribution of the magazine until all of the false information has been corrected. The version on our web site needs to be amended immediately. She took the Board through an exercise that was to jointly come up with "Brand Attributes" and "Brand Expression." The purpose of the exercise was to help us formulate a consensus on brand attributes of CFFC. The following list is what the Board felt were our "Attributes:"
Involvement, credibility, educated and informed, unbiased and open-minded, current and relevant,

solution oriented, collaborative, comprehensive, objective, a sense of place for everyone and quality of life for all.

Goals and Objectives – Mr. Cheek reported that he listed some of our goals and objectives in the upcoming *Monitor* and asked if anyone had other suggestions to add to the list. Ms. Scheer wants to add the backing of the PDR program and more emphasis on saving farm land, even though other organizations are doing it. Ms. Broaddus asked how CFFC can promote these goals. Ms. Scheer said to give money to existing organizations. Mr. Rich said the Land Trust of Virginia would partner with us to promote easements. Mr. Ramundo suggested that we wait for Mr. Atherton to return to discuss what we can do to back PDR's and conservation easements in the County.

Membership – Ms. Trotto thanked the members of the Board who helped with updating the membership data base, particularly Ms. Semple who did all of the manual work of correcting and adding new information into the data base. Ms. Trotto turned the floor over to Ms. Page who told the Board about an initiative to collaborate with the Warrenton Garden Club, along with other potential partners, to create several **milkweed plantings** in the County in an effort to support the restoration of habitats for the Monarch butterfly. Initially, the effort will create two milkweed plantings in easily accessible public areas such as Rady Park and the entrance to the Greenway. If this is successful, it is hoped that we can expand the efforts to other sites. Ultimately, it is hoped that the plantings can be registered as "Monarch Waystations", a program offered by the national Monarch Association. At this time, CFFC is looking for consultation guidance from the Warrenton Garden Club as to preparation, installation and maintenance. Ms. Page asked the Board for \$3500.00 for the project and for a new CFFC banner. The Board unanimously approved the expenditure. Mr. Alm said that Jim Hankins of the Fauquier Education Farm has offered to have a CFFC Day where CFFC Board members can help plant seed potatoes. **Give Local Piedmont** – Inspired by Ms. Broaddus's recommendation, Ms. Trotto signed CFFC up to participate in this year's *Give Local Piedmont*, a one-day event taking place on May 7, 2019. This event is hosted by the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation for an on-line giving event to inspire people to give to the non-profit(s) of their choice. Every dollar donated will be increased with money provided by the PATH Foundation and other sponsors. Donations are made through the www.givelocalpiedmont.org website by credit or debit cards. Checks are accepted between 12-5 P.M. at a location yet to be determined, and must be made payable to the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation with CFFC written in the "memo" line. If you or someone you know prefers to donate by check, for their convenience, we will collect them beforehand and deliver them to the location on May 7. Donations by check are counted for the final tally, but not toward prizes given during the day. Ms. Trotto attended a seminar on tips for maximizing donations during the event and all of the speakers agreed that obtaining 100% Board participation and matching funds were the two most successful promotions. Ms. Trotto is asking for 100% participation and will be sending reminders as we approach the date. Complete Board participation of \$10.00 or more will show that we are 100% committed to working for our community to preserve our resources and to protect Fauquier County's future. Prizes are awarded throughout the day based on the number of donations received, so every donation counts. Besides your donation, there are other ways to you can help to make the campaign successful: 1.) Secure a donor to offer matching funds, 2.) Spread awareness of the Give Local Piedmont campaign by informing friends, family and co-workers about it and encourage their participation. Postcards are available to give information on our letterhead to help with your efforts for those interested and 3.) Advertise the event by placing signs or banners on your home and business properties. Ms. Trotto will deliver the signs provided by the PATH Foundation to you.

FINANCE – Ms. Broaddus

No report

COMMUNICATIONS – Chris Bonner

In Mr. Bonner's absence, Mr. Ramundo gave the following report: The *Monitor* will be in the mail by March 22. Articles from the *Monitor* will appear on the home page on a rotating basis - one per week. This will keep the search engines refreshed, but visits will be limited until we launch a Facebook page and other social media applications to build traffic. A budget will be submitted next month for as many as three more *Monitors* this year. Expenses will be based on the current *Monitor* which has a higher press run (542) than we had been running (400), reflecting the revised membership data compiled by Ms. Semple. Expenses include design, printing, labelling, inserting donation envelopes and mailing (bulk permit).

TRANSPORTATION – Jonathon Nuckles

Mr. Nuckles reported : 1.) The improvement at Rt. 29 and Vint Hill Road, the "Cut the Hills" project begins July 8th and ends August 2nd. Rt. 29 north will be shut down during this period and local traffic will be re-routed down Broad Run Church Rd. to Vint Hill Road then back on to Rt. 29 above the construction site. 2.) Construction of an overpass and a few roundabouts on Rt.29/15 near LFCC has started and will continue until the summer of 2020. 3.) Improvements to the intersection of Rt. 29 and Freeman's Ford Rd. where right turns are planned, has many concerned about the impact right turns will have on farm-related traffic. These right turns will prevent left handed turns on to 29 from Freeman's Ford Rd. Instead, all traffic will be required to make a right turn on to 29 then cross lanes of traffic to make a u-turn at median cut-throughs. At the time of our meeting, Supervisor Butler was planning to schedule more Town Hall meetings to discuss community concerns, but is waiting until the budget process is complete.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Norden announced that the Town is updating its Comprehensive Plan to establish policies to judge decision making about land use planning and growth management and is requesting comments from citizens through a survey online. The survey can be found at: www.warrentonplan.com Mr. Norden encouraged the Board to do the survey before March 29th, 2019 after which the survey will no longer be available for comment.

Mr. Stone suggested that we should invite the two people who are running for the position of Commissioner of Revenue to give a presentation at one of our meetings.

Ms. Scheer reminded the Board about the Annual Bluebell Walk on Cedar Run on April13 at 2 P.M. at Bonny Brook Farm, 8446, Old Dumfries Rd., Catlett, VA.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Russell
Secretary