

**CITIZENS FOR FAUQUIER COUNTY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Meeting Minutes

Piedmont Environmental Board Room

February 18, 2019

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

**LAND USE – Rick Carr**

The Clifton Institute has applied for two Special Exceptions to allow the operation of an indoor and outdoor Technical School and another Special Exception to allow a business or professional office with six or less employees. The Clifton institute is on 900 acres in conservation easement and offers programs with emphasis on environmental education, research and ecological restoration. Mr. Carr said that before the approval, the County planning staff would outline conditions. Since this is an environmental organization, CFFC approves the above mentioned uses.

Blackthorne Inn – Mr. Cheek and Mr. Carr spoke to Holly Meade at Community Development (COMDEV) about whether or not representatives of the Easton Porter Group (EPG) have been in touch with them. Ms. Meade said things were moving slowly, but the County staff is making the same arguments we are about the size and amount of structures, the number of events and the size of the events. The staff would like to see the excess land put into conservation easement. Apparently, EPG will contact us when they are ready to discuss changes to its application. Adam Shellenberger, a member of the COMDEV staff, has offered to attend our next meeting with the applicants. Mr. Alm thought that was an excellent idea.

Planning Commission work session – Mr. Carr reported that the PC discussed putting forward a plan for County villages which would reduce the size of the villages in the Comp Plan, but there would still be village zoning. Mr. Lee said all zoning should comply with the Comp Plan and allow water and sewer systems outside of a village only if there are failures in the village. He said we need to stay informed about this revision of the Village Chapter because of water and sewer issues and the placement of cell towers. An historic overlay district is planned for Markham and Rectortown.

BOS work session – Mr. Cheek and Ms. Bolthouse discussed the 2019 Budget for Fauquier County. 1.) The money that is available to create the Rappahannock Battlefield Park is still available and needs to be used to get the park started with fencing and landscaping. 2.) The BOS - sponsored agriculture study, like CFFC's, cite a need for farmers to have the infrastructure to sell their products. However, nothing will happen unless the County can attract investment capital and donations. 3.) There is an initiative to open non-common open space to family transfer. This should not be done.

General Assembly – 1.) A bill was defeated that would have allowed up to twelve weddings per year with a maximum of 250 guests per event in rural-agricultural areas. 2.) Because of development having come to a standstill since proffers were outlawed, a bill is being developed that is currently a mish-mash of proffers and development impact fees. The bill is being supported by smaller developers who pushed for no proffers a couple of years ago.

**REGULAR SESSION**

Mr. Cheek opened the regular session of the CFFC Board meeting at 12:40 P.M. The January minutes were approved as written. Ms. Wilson encouraged the Board to pay their dues, asked them to chip in approximately \$30.00 a year to pay for the Officers and Directors insurance and admonished them about spending money without Board approval. The finance report was accepted as written. Ms. Semple was elected as a member of the Executive Committee.

Goals and Objectives – Ms. Semple said she would like to see more of a commitment to our membership and to the growth of our membership through good works and public recognition of what we do. Mr. Lubowsky suggested that we should partner with other organizations in participating in selected initiatives. Ms. Broaddus expanded on Mr. Alm’s suggestion that we keep track of what the outcome is of our recommendations to the BOS and suggested that we start publishing in the Monitor every land use application decision and how each BOS member voted. The Board approved the suggestion and Mr. Carr agreed to work on providing the information for past decisions in 2019 as well as those in the future.

**MEMBERSHIP** – Susan Russell

Ms. Russell said that Ms. Semple has been updating our membership data base. Ms. Semple reported that the data base we are using is cumbersome and that we will eventually need to switch over to a more streamlined version.

Membership Campaign Task Force – Chris Bonner

Mr. Bonner said the Task Force (MCTF) has met and has been broken down into four sub-committees: Strategic Plan – Mr. Bonner, Mr. Ramundo and Mr. Alm. Emerging Issues – Mr. Cheek, Mr. Bonner and Ms. Semple. Events – Mr. Larson, Mr. Nuckles, Mr. Alm, Ms. Page, Ms. Russell, Mr. Bonner and Ms. Trotto. Lists – Ms. Semple, Ms. Trotto and Ms. Russell. Future meetings will follow. Mr. Bonner said the outreach to local organizations is underway. He also said there was a need for part time help to handle media tasks with Facebook and Instagram, etc. The MCTF should have a budget report within the next 45-60 days.

**FINANCE** – Julie Broaddus

Ms. Broaddus said that she has not received any budget requests from the various committees.

**TRANSPORTATION** – Jonathon Nuckles

Mr. Cheek announced that Mr. Nuckles will replace Mr. Stone as the chairman of the transportation committee. Ms. Wilson asked Mr. Nuckles to look into the proposal to remove the stoplight at the intersection of Freeman’s Ford Road and Rt. 29.

**OPEN FORUM**

Ms. Broaddus alerted the Board to the news that the Head family is selling their property on Airlie Road. The land is not under conservation easement. She also said there was a great need in the County to have on staff an environmentalist and an arborist.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Russell  
Secretary