

Willowsford Conservancy
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 18, 2017
Minutes

Attending: Rick DiBella, Stan Settle, Mark Trostle, – Trustees, Iris Gestram – Executive Director, Mike Snow – Director of Farm Operations

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:09 pm.
- Minutes: Stan moved to approve the minutes from April 3, 2017. Mark seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
- 2017-2018 Deer Management Plan: The board accepted the recommendations of the Deer Management Task Force for the 2017-2018 season. The 2017-2018 Deer Population Management Program will be posted on the new Conservancy website when it launches in June, and residents will be updated via e-mail.
- Wildlife Surveys:
 - The Conservancy continues to work with William McShea, Research Ecologist at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, to study deer impact on Conservancy property.
 - The Board adopted a proposal to study the effect of white-tailed deer on the Conservancy's natural resources over 3 years. The proposed approach will estimate deer numbers and their impact of forest succession using deer density and relative abundance surveys; and woody plant abundance and browse index surveys. Fieldwork is scheduled to begin this summer.
 - The Conservancy participates in Virginia Working Landscapes, a program of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI), conducting bird, pollinator and mammal surveys between May-August in The Greens. Assisted by SCBI scientists, the surveys identify and count wildlife in forests and fields, and provide data for evaluating wildlife populations and habitat health.
- Woodlot Maintenance Rating Policy: The Board adopted a Woodland Evaluation Form to evaluate as needed the condition and propose treatments for wooded areas under Conservancy management.
- Board of Trustees: Former trustee Kelly Hernandez resigned from the Board on May 11, due to other commitments. The Board will review future membership at its next meeting.

- Reports
 - Iris reported on the progress of the new Conservancy website that is being created by Sparkfire Branding. The design phase is completed, and the website is being programmed, to launch in June.
 - Iris reported on the new Land Stewardship & Environmental Education Internship. Rachel Stephenson will join the Conservancy as its first intern, from June 5 through August 31.
 - Iris reported on the progress of the Grange Wet Meadow improvements. Planting and hardscaping are completed. Interpretive signage is scheduled to be installed in June, and the meadow will re-open in late summer.
 - Iris reported on the progress of the Conservancy maintenance barn on Fleetwood Road in The Grant. Building work is completed. The septic system, fencing and work on the facility yard will continue through June.
 - Mike reported on the Grant farm infrastructure projects. The tractor & packing shed is being designed. The farm residence also is in the design phase, comparing a kit house and a custom designed house.
 - Mike reported on the Grant Farm Market Study conducted by Kitchen Table Consultants, and presented summaries of the recent focus groups and surveys. Collaborative business planning sessions will take place in June.

- Next Meeting Date: July 20, 2017, 4:00 pm.

- Meeting adjourned at 5:13 pm.