

WILLOWSFORD CONSERVANCY  
Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
September 21, 2017

Minutes

Attending: Rick DiBella, Stan Settle, Mark Trostle, Iris Gestram

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:09 pm.

Approval of Agenda: Mark moved to approve the agenda. Stan seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Minutes: Mark moved to approve the minutes from July 20, 2017. Stan seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Greens Event Field/Group Campsite was approved as presented. The site name will be Hidden Meadow Event Field & Group Campground, referencing the dense cedar border lining the grassy field.

Reforestation of the 3.9-acre former sod field in the southern portion of The Grange was approved. Facilitated by the VA Department of Forestry, the site will be planted with loblolly pine seedlings in spring of 2018.

Creation of a recreational archery range in The Greens for resident use was approved as presented. A group of Willowsford residents assisted with site design and layout. Implementation is planned for spring of 2018. The intent is for a Willowsford resident recreational archery club to manage the site and its use.

Consultant Virginia Waters & Wetlands' proposal for a review of 11 water features managed by the Conservancy was approved with minor revisions. The inspection report will help guide the Conservancy's water feature management in the four villages.

The Conservancy will act as the General Contractor for the Cedar Pond Pavilion education pavilion and deck structures.

The position description for adding a full-time Conservancy land steward position in 2018 was approved as presented.

Work on the Conservancy website continues. The Conservancy will review content and design with Stacey Kessinger for consistency between Conservancy/Farm marketing and Willowsford community marketing.

The Founder plans to appoint a resident board member in 2018 for a one-year term. Interested residents may submit applications. Iris will provide a draft "Search for Resident Appointee" document at the November meeting.

The board voted 3-0 to approve expenditures to build the farm manager tenant house.

## Reports:

- Fleetwood Maintenance Facility: In August/September, the septic system and container storage were installed, and evergreens were planted to screen the facility from the trail. Grading and concrete were completed for the fuel station. Facility plumbing is being completed this month, and the fuel station is expected to be completed in October – closing out the Maintenance Facility project.
- Deer Population Management: 21 hunters qualified for the 2017-2018 season, including 17 residents, a Conservancy employee and 3 volunteers, to hunt in The Greens and Grant as per the attached schedule. Communication to residents includes outreach through Conservancy e-newsletters and Willowsford Weekly, free-standing e-mails, and trail signage. Notifications will be sent at the start of the hunting season, and before and during each firearms hunt period. Greens trails will be posted as “CLOSED” during firearms hunts. Program information, including safety information, hunting guidelines, schedules and maps, are posted in the Conservancy Programs section of the WillowsfordLife.com website.
- Deer Impact Study: As per the Conservancy’s agreement with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) to help assess the impact of deer on Willowsford open space over the next 3 years, SCBI is conducting deer browse studies and wildlife camera surveys in the forests. During a night-time spotlighting survey in October, Smithsonian researchers and volunteers will drive Willowsford roads at 5 mph using a Smithsonian vehicle and spotlights to sight deer. No lights will be shined onto houses. Residents were notified via the Conservancy newsletter and Willowsford Weekly, and can contact the Conservancy to have their yard excluded from the survey. Study results will be shared in 2018.
- Recent & Upcoming Events
  - Conservancy Summer Camps included Discovery Camp days on July 17, 19 and 21, and the weeklong Lost & Found in the Wilds of Willowsford, July 24-28, in The Grange.
  - The Grange Wet Meadow opening was held on Sat, Aug. 26, including a guided walk with meadow designer Susan Abraham, and family activities.
  - The popular annual Community Bonfire & Camp-over will take place on Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 30-October 1, in The Greens, including live music, a bonfire and cookout, and overnight camping.
  - The Rev3 Trail Mix on Saturday, Oct. 7 includes 5K, 10K and Half-Marathon races followed by the Tenderfoot Adventure Race on Oct. 8, in The Greens.
  - The Conservancy will participate in Autumn Fest on Saturday, Oct. 14 with wildlife ambassadors from The Blue Ridge Wildlife Center and hands-on family activities, in The Greens.
  - The annual Rev3 Ghoul Run (Glow Run) will take place on Halloween weekend, Saturday, Oct. 28, at The Greens, co-promoting Trick-or-Treating at the model homes.
  - Nature programs with Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy include a Pollinator Walk on Aug. 8 and Bird Walk on Sept. 17 in The Greens; a Nov. 5 Fall Colors Walk in The Grant and a Nov. 8 Gardening with Natives class, in The Grange.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.