

WILLOWSFORD CONSERVANCY
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 15, 2018

Minutes

Attending: Rick Dibella, Stan Settle, Mark Trostle, Mary Hegedus, Stacey Kessinger, Claudette Papathanasopoulous, Chris Bodley – Trustees; Iris Gestram – Executive Director

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:31pm.

Approval of Agenda: Mark moved to approve the agenda. Mary seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

Minutes: Mark moved to approve the minutes from March 15, 2018. Mary seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

New Business:

Cedar Pond Pavilion Rental Agreement: The Cedar Pond Pavilion rental agreement was modeled after the HOA usage agreements for other common facilities in the community. Mark Trostle moved to approve the rental agreement as presented. Stan seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

Archery Range Use Agreement: The Archery Range use agreement was modeled after the HOA use agreement for the Willowsford Waves (community swim team). Similar to the Waves structure, the archery club will be required to carry their own insurance and will be separately incorporated apart from the Conservancy. Mark moved to approve the archery range use agreement subject to Willowsford insurance review. Mary seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

2018 Deer Management Program: Iris presented the following proposed changes to the 2018-2019 Deer Management program to the board:

- Shorten archery season to the pre-firearm weeks
- Select hunters based on past success taking antlerless deer (focus on deer population management; emphasize the program is about conservation rather than “recreational hunting”
- Permit limited firearms hunting in The Grant to curb forest over-browsing and facilitate forest regeneration. Currently, deer density and deer browsing are highest in The Grant.

The board agreed that a communication to the residents explaining the benefits of the program modifications is the best next step.

Resolution – Native Plant Planting on Non-Farm Conservancy Land: Mark moved to adopt the Native Plant Resolution on Non-Farm Conservancy Land. Rick seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

Executive Director Report:

Farm Manager Hiring

Approximately 60 applications have been received to date. Interviews for the position continue. In addition, the Conservancy will enter into a recruiting agreement with AgHires—a recruiting, job posting and HR company for the Agriculture and Food Production industries—to assist with filling the position. Anya Rosen serves as the Acting Farm Manager until the position is filled.

CSA Update

- Vegetable Shares sold: 218
- Egg Shares: 206
- Milk Shares: 46
- Chicken Shares: 12
- Flower Shares: 55

Project Updates

Recreational Archery Range: Construction is nearing completion, including a pavilion, storage shed, ten archery lanes with targets at varying distances, and areas for archery instruction, Club activities, and parking. A use agreement between Willowsford Conservancy and the resident Willowsford Archery Club is being finalized.

Cedar Pond Pavilion: Construction is nearing completion for a projected opening in June. The Pavilion will be available for educational programs, and rental by residents.

Grange Farm Stand & Garden Renovations: To better serve Farm Stand customers, improvements to the Grange Farm Stand and garden were made in March and April. Off-street parking was added to improve safety and convenience. Space for the food truck was enlarged and picnic tables were placed near the Farm Stand. A display freezer was added to improve display of farm products, and electrical power capacity was upgraded for lighting, storage AC, and display units. The project will conclude with the installation of lights in the parking area, garden and near the Farm Stand.

Hidden Meadow Event Field Project Update: The project is slated for completion in fall of 2018, in The Greens.

Farm Tenant House: The farm manager residence, located near the Grant farm, was completed in May and is awaiting final inspection.

Farm Packing Shed Improvements: Work is underway to improve produce storage, cooling, washing and packing areas at the Grange Farm, and add an employee restroom. New floor tile was installed in the second-floor farm employee office and lunch room to facilitate cleaning and maintenance.

Greens Livestock Farm Improvements: A farm shed was converted to an egg washing and storage work area to limit egg transport and enable employees to inspect, wash, package and store eggs at the livestock farm. Following wind damage, the roof, siding and doors of another storage shed were repaired. Minor tenant house repairs and

cleaning were completed to ready the house for the next tenant. The long-standing sagging of the living room floor is awaiting inspection.

2018 Habitat Restoration Projects include three riparian plantings to restore tree cover in riparian areas in The Greens and Grant; a meadow restoration with native warm-season grasses in The Greens (completed); and restoration of a former sod field to pine forest in The Grange (completed). Riparian plantings are supported through grants from the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District. The riparian plantings were completed ahead of schedule, on April 5; 810 hardwood seedlings were planted, protected by tree tubes. The mix of native species included Hornbeam, Red Maple, Pin Oak, Swamp White Oak, Persimmon, Redbud, Serviceberry, Spicebush, Sweetgum, Sycamore, Witchhazel, Bald Cypress, Hackberry, Elderberry, Flowering (White) Dogwood, Blackgum and River Birch. E-mails were sent to residents adjacent to the project areas to inform them of the upcoming work.

Trail Wayfinding and Interpretation App: With assistance from trustee Claudette Papathanasopoulos, the Conservancy is exploring apps for trail wayfinding and interpretation. Four apps, "My Tours", "On Cell", "Tour Buddy" and "Pocketsights" were evaluated, along with ESRI's "App Studio". A demo session presenting "My Tours" and "App Studio" will be held on May 24 at the Grange. My Tours includes a one-time set-up fee of \$2,000 and annual service fee of \$125/month and provides somewhat better features and user-friendliness compared to ESRI's AppStudio. The Conservancy already maintains an ESRI account for land mapping. The Conservancy hopes to provide residents with user-friendly trail navigation and educational information on their hand-held devices, replacing printed maps.

2018 PROGRAMS & EVENTS – FYI

- Feb. 13-April 4: Landscape for Life, 6-sessions; The Grange (13 students)
- March 17: Willowsford Wildlife - Beavers at Work nature walk w. Ranger Andrew, The Greens, 4:00-5:30 PM (sold out)
- March 18: Amphibian Walk with Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, Mike Hayslett, The Greens (14 registrants)
- April 12: Tick Ecology Lecture, Ron Circe, The Grange (25 registrants)
- April 14: Stories, Tales & Puppets, The Grange; storytelling event (32 registrants)
- April 14: Willowsford Dark Sky Event with the HOA; The Greens (81 registrants)
- April 21: Monarch Butterflies and Milkweed Terrariums workshop and nature walk led by Mark Ahlijanian, The Grange, 9:00-11:30 AM (sold out)
- April 21: Spring Peeper Pond Tour for Willowsford Social Club, The Greens
- April 22: Earth Day Broad Run watershed cleanup at The Grove, and Archery Range forest cleanup at The Greens (33 participants)
- April 26: Voices in the Night Amphibian Walk w. Kevin Rose, VDGIF, The Grange (sold out - 24)
- May 1 – November 20: Willowsford Farm Stand, The Grange
- May – October: Grant Family Campsite - Camping Season
- May 13: Eastern Bluebirds at Willowsford nature walk led by Patrick Boleman, The Grange
- May 22: April 7: Snags: The Wildlife Tree, Kevin Rose, DVGIF, The Grange

- June 2: Monarch Butterflies and Milkweed Terrariums workshop and nature walk led by Mark A., The Grange
- June 18, 20 & 22: Discover Summer Camp, The Grange
- June 25-29: Lost & Found Summer Camp, The Greens
- TBD: Opening Event for the Archery Range and Cedar Pond Pavilion with the Willowsford Archery Club, The Greens
- August TBD: Wet Meadow Nature Walk, The Grange
- Sept. 22: Adventure Enablers Trail Mix Races, The Greens
- Sept. 23: Adventure Enablers Tenderfoot Race, The Greens
- Sept. 29: Community Bonfire & Camp-over, The Greens

Next Meeting Date: July 17, 2018 at 4:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 pm.