

WILLOWSFORD CONSERVANCY  
Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
July 17, 2018

Minutes

Attending: 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 4:41pm.

Approval of Agenda: Mark moved to approve the agenda. Mary seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Minutes: Mark moved to approve the minutes from May 15, 2018. Mary seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

New Business:

Assigning Enforcement Responsibility to HOA: The ability to take enforcement action regarding resident encroachment on Conservancy open space was clarified and will be granted to the HOA on behalf of the Willowsford Conservancy by the Founder (Developer) to assure the Willowsford community standard is maintained.

Review of Community Covenant Section 2.3 (e) (iii) Notice of Budget and Annual Assessment; Right to Disapprove (pp. 11-12): The Board discussed the wording of this paragraph in the Community Covenant document and it was agreed that a proposal will be submitted to the Board for review amending the language and clarifying the original intent, better explaining the process, and providing clarification for resolution.

Executive Director Report:

Hiring of Farm Manager and Retail Manager

Willowsford Conservancy has hired Collin Thompson as the new Farm Manager, effective September 17. Collin currently manages River Root Farm, MSU's certified organic research, production and education farm. He also is the Extension Educator at Michigan State University Extension, at the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in East Lansing, MI. Collin earned a M.S. in Sustainable Food Systems from Green Mountain College and a B.A. in Biology from Luther College. He brings extensive experience in organic vegetable production and marketing, farm business management, and farm-related outreach and education. Collin will reside at The Grant farm manager residence and will begin working on-site on October 8.

Ashley Swensen will join Willowsford Farm as Retail Manager effective July 23, taking the place of Deb Dramby who has decided to pursue other opportunities. Deb will assist with training Ashley in July and August. Ashley brings a love for local food along with extensive management experience in the restaurant and hospitality industry. Her business management, marketing, communications and team management skills are paired with

her experience with farm-to-table restaurants and working with local food and farming communities. Ashley studied English Literature at the University of North Carolina.

Recreational Archery Range and Archery Club: The Archery Range facility was completed in June, including a pavilion, storage shed, ten archery lanes with targets at varying distances, and areas for archery instruction, Club activities, and parking. The Conservancy was instrumental in helping form a resident Willowsford Archery Club. A use agreement between Willowsford Conservancy and the Archery Club, and Club liability insurance coverage are being finalized. The Archery Club, a Virginia non-profit, has also entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the HOA, similar to the Swim Club.

2018 Deer Management Program: Willowsford residents received extensive information about the 2018 deer management program on June 11, via e-newsletter. All program information, including rules, dates, maps, and the 2017 results of the Conservancy's three-year Smithsonian deer impact study, were posted on the Conservancy website prior to June 11, for resident access. Seventeen new residents inquired about joining the program and were provided with information. The deadline to submit entry forms for the 2018-2019 season is July 23. In addition to Willowsford residents and employees, the Conservancy continues to accept qualified volunteers who contribute special expertise that supports the Conservancy's land conservation efforts. To date, individuals working for the VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the VA Department of Forestry, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Reston Association volunteer personal time as well as contribute professional expertise.

#### 2018 Venue Rentals:

In May and June of 2018, 13 families booked a total of 28 camp pads at the Grant Family Campground, compared to 3 families who rented 5 camp pads in 2017. The total for the May-October 2017 camping season was 14 bookings for 20 camp pads. The first Cedar Pond Pavilion rental event took place on July 14, by the Willowsford Brew Club.

Cedar Pond Pavilion: Construction was completed in July and the Pavilion is now available for educational programs and rental by residents. An opening event for both the Pavilion and the Archery Range is scheduled for September 16.

Hidden Meadow Event Field: Work is progressing at the Hidden Meadow Event Field & Group Campground in The Greens. The Conservancy plans to open the new venue with this year's Annual Community Bonfire & Camp-over on September 29-30.

Farm Improvements – Grange Farm Packing Shed: Work is nearing completion to improve produce storage, cooling, washing and packing areas at the Grange Farm, and add an employee restroom. New drive-in storage coolers are being installed; drive-in doors were added; a roofed and paved crate washing area was added; and the overall space is being reconfigured for improved workflow and utility.

#### CSA Update (as of July 16)

- Vegetable Shares sold: 237
- Egg Shares: 216

- Milk Shares: 44
- Chicken Shares: 14
- Flower Shares: 57
- Farm Debit Card: \$21,395

#### 2018 PROGRAMS & EVENTS – FYI

- o Feb. 13-April 4: Landscape for Life, 6-sessions; The Grange (13 students)
- o March 17: Willowsford Wildlife - Beavers at Work nature walk – led by Conservancy staff, The Greens, 4:00-5:30 PM (sold out)
- o March 18: Amphibian Walk with Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, Mike Hayslett, The Greens (14 registrants)
- o April 12: Tick Ecology Lecture, Ron Circe, Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, The Grange (25 registrants)
- o April 14: Stories, Tales & Puppets, The Grange; Earth Day related storytelling event (32 registrants)
- o April 14: Willowsford Dark Sky Event with the HOA; The Greens (81 registrants)
- o April 21: Monarch Butterflies and Milkweed Terrariums workshop and nature walk led by Conservancy staff, The Grange, 9:00-11:30 AM (sold out)
- o April 21: Spring Peeper Pond Tour for Willowsford Social Club, led by Conservancy staff, The Greens
- o April 22: Earth Day Broad Run watershed cleanup at The Grove, and Archery Range forest cleanup at The Greens (33 participants)
- o April 26: Voices in the Night Amphibian Walk w. Kevin Rose, Wildlife Biologist, VDGIF, The Grange (sold out - 24)
- o May 1 – November 20: Willowsford Farm Stand, The Grange
- o May – October: Grant Family Campsite - Camping Season
- o May 13: Eastern Bluebirds at Willowsford nature walk led by Conservancy staff, The Grange (15 registrants)
- o June 2: Monarch Butterflies and Milkweed Terrariums workshop and nature walk led by Conservancy staff, The Grange (20 registrants)
- o June 18, 20 & 22: Discover Summer Camp, programmed by Conservancy staff, The Grange (20 registrants)

#### Upcoming:

- o July 23-27: Lost & Found Summer Camp, The Grange (20 registrants)
- o Aug. 25: Wet Meadow Nature Walk, led by Conservancy staff, The Grange
- o Sept. 16: Opening Event for the Archery Range and Cedar Pond Pavilion with the Willowsford Archery Club, The Greens
- o Sept. 22: Adventure Enablers Trail Mix Races, The Greens
- o Sept. 29-30: Community Bonfire & Camp-over, The Greens
- o TBD: Snags: The Wildlife Tree, Wildlife Biologist Kevin Rose, VDGIF, The Grange
- o Oct. 6-January 4: Deer Management Program, The Greens, The Grant
- o October 20: Autumn Fest – Pollinator Displays & Activities, The Greens

Next Meeting Date: September 18, 2018 at 4:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm.