



**2021 Election of Trustees  
Meet the Candidates – Virtual Event**  
Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 6:30 -8:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85323760808?pwd=VUxTcmFwVmF6S1lTUDl6aVhMTDZVUT09>

Meeting ID: 853 2376 0808      Passcode: 231415

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome – Chase Rowan, Trustee
2. Conservancy Overview
  - Mission & Role of the Board – Iris Gestram Executive Director
  - Current Work & Priorities – Claudette Papathanasopoulos, Trustee
  - Budget & Financial Position – Chase Rowan
3. Candidate Presentations (**2 minutes per candidate**)
  - Raymond Britt
  - Chad Dally
  - Thomas Iak
  - Scott McIntosh
  - Karyn Moreland
  - Paul Newman
  - John Pellerito
  - Jake Virag
4. Candidate Q&A
5. Adjourn – 8:00 pm

## 2021 Election of Directors Candidate Statement

**Candidate Name:** Raymond Britt

**Willowsford Property Address:** 41570 Hepatica Court, Ashburn VA 20148

**How long have you been an owner at Willowsford:**  
Four years

**Briefly describe your professional and educational background, as well as any special skills or experience you would bring to the board:**



**Have you volunteered with Willowsford before:** Yes

**If so, in what capacity and for how long?**

I've supported the swim team and a few events. I was deployed for about half the time I've lived here so it's limited my participation.

**If you have volunteered elsewhere, in what capacity and for how long?**

I've volunteered in a number of organizations for twenty years. In the 1990's, I supported the Head Injury Services Partnership, Life with Cancer, and served on the Fairfax County School Board as the Student Representative. During college I supported Habitat for Humanity. After I was commissioned in the Navy, I supported the Dolphin Scholarship and Wounded Warriors. Most recently I've been volunteering at my kids' schools.

**Why do you want to serve on the Conservancy Board of Trustees?**

I want preserve and maintain what makes this community special. I would like nature to continue to be a thriving part of the community. As Loudoun County continues to grow, we need to preserve undeveloped spaces that provide the fresh air, fresh food, clean water, and healthy habitats that make this community so unique.

**How do you feel you are qualified?**

I have over twenty years of experience managing large, complex organizations. I've also have experience supporting environmental and conservation efforts at the local, national, and international levels. Most recently, I spent the past year and a half in Africa, as the Acting Director of Operations for Combined Joint Task Force, Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA). At CJTF-HOA I led a department of over 200 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines as well as personnel from seven coalition partners. Our mission was to coordinate the operations of over 7,000 troops across 12 countries in an area of operations twice the size of the continental United States. In this role I demonstrated my ability to resolve large, complex problems, manage budgets, and balance competing interests. While our primary focus was on national security issues, we also worked on environmental and conservation issues. It was immensely rewarding to work with Ugandan and Kenyan

Rangers to combat illicit trafficking of endangered animals as well as preserving their national parks. Many of the projects I supervised in Africa were related to implementing sustainable agricultural practices to mitigate the impact of climate shock and food insecurity. This taught me the most important and impactful work on these issues is done at the local level and in cooperation and coordination with development. While the communities we supported were different than Willowsford, the vision was the same. A community surrounded by sustainable, natural spaces that support the community. I learned a lot in Africa, and while we don't need to be concerned with the local lion population we can apply many of the things they are doing to integrate their communities with natural spaces. In conclusion, what I have to offer the community is how to use a global perspective to address local challenges.

**What are your top priorities to accomplish should you be elected?**

My first priority would be to preserve the natural spaces and ensure the continued success on the community. By any objective measure, the community and the Conservancy are well run and successful, my primary goal would be to ensure that any change wouldn't negatively impact the long term sustainability of the Conservancy including the farm and the trails. I would also prioritize minimizing cost increases to the residents. Additionally, once COVID protocols are behind us I would like to add more programs that bring the community into the natural spaces. Reopening and expanding the Farm Stand, getting kids volunteering on the farm, and getting the kids out playing in the woods would be my secondary priority.

2021 Election of Directors  
Candidate Statement

**Candidate Name:** Chad Dally

**Willowsford Property Address:** 24899 Quimby Oaks Pl

**How long have you been an owner at Willowsford:** 1.5 years

**Briefly describe your professional and educational background, as well as any special skills or experience you would bring to the board:**

Corporate Environmental Sustainability Education - Harvard  
Sustainable Trails Education through various entities including  
IMBA

Board Trail Work Lead -  
Richmond MORE Trail Work  
Lead - Pocahontas State Park

I understand thoroughly the concepts of designing, building, and maintaining trails that are built into the natural landscape utilizing materials and design techniques that eliminate drainage issues, reduce erosion, and don't impact surrounding areas and natural landscape. This includes erosion and contaminates meeting Chesapeake bay water act requirements.

**Have you volunteered with Willowsford before: No**  
**If so, in what capacity and for how long?**

NA

**If you have volunteered elsewhere, in what capacity and for how long?**  
8 years for Richmond MORE and Pocahontas State Park

**Why do you want to serve on the Conservancy Board of Trustees?**

Create a sustainable view of our multi use trail network and long term maintenance plan that meets the intent and ideals of the conservancy mission.

**How do you feel you are qualified?**

See above education and experience.

Also a board member on several non profit organizations unrelated to conservation.

**What are your top priorities to accomplish should you be elected?**

Trail maintenance, sustainability, budget of trails, and long term plan.



## 2021 Election of Directors Candidate Statement

**Candidate Name:** Thomas Iak

**Willowsford Property Address:** 41086 Moondancer Court

**How long have you been an owner at Willowsford:**  
3 years in July

**Briefly describe your professional and educational background, as well as any special skills or experience you would bring to the board:**

I graduated from the United States Military Academy at Westpoint in 1998 and served 5 years in the Corps of Engineers as an Army Officer. While serving as an engineer officer, I supported multiple natural disaster relief and environmental improvement efforts as part of the mission. After separating from the military, I worked in unique governmental start-ups focusing on rapid acquisition and technology development. In 2006, I co-founded Red Gate Group, an organizational and business transformation systems integration firm. I currently serve as the President of Red Gate Group and am responsible for all aspects of strategy, business administration and innovation across the company. I am also an experienced board member as I currently sit on 2 boards and have advised dozens of boards and private companies over the last 15 years.



**Have you volunteered with Willowsford before:** No  
**If so, in what capacity and for how long?**

**If you have volunteered elsewhere, in what capacity and for how long?**

- Americorp (3 months total volunteer time)- I supported wildlife preservation and environmental improvement along the Washington State waterways. We improved riverbeds to create pools for salmon spawning
- Haiti support (4 weeks total volunteer time)- I deployed to Haiti as a civilian for 2 weeks immediately after the earthquake to search for survivors of the natural disaster. I have traveled back to Haiti for an additional 2 weeks to support rebuilding villages and providing necessary community sustainment.

**Why do you want to serve on the Conservancy Board of Trustees?**

The Conservancy is a special part of our community and I would like to support its continued sustainment and provide a trusted voice for the community.

**How do you feel you are qualified?**

I bring seasoned board experience, business acumen, and a passion for wildlife and outdoor living. I believe a could be an asset to the board and the community by bringing strong skills in strategic planning, business operations, finance, as well as community relations.

**What are your top priorities to accomplish should you be elected?**

I do not bring any specific agenda. I believe the continued protection and upkeep of the conservation land is very important to the community. I would look to enhance the already established priorities of the Conservancy and listen to the ideas of the community.

## 2021 Election of Directors Candidate Statement

**Candidate Name:** Scott McIntosh

**Willowsford Property Address:** 24739 Black Willow Drive, Aldie, VA 20105

**How long have you been an owner at Willowsford:**  
3 years, 10 months

**Briefly describe your professional and educational background, as well as any special skills or experience you would bring to the board:**

I am a Technical Director at the multidisciplinary firm ICF. During my 25+ years at ICF I have supported many private and public clients, including the EPA where I supported multiple Climate Change initiatives. My career in the IT field spans over 3 decades: from the dawn of the personal computer to today's cloud computing.

I have strong analytical and problem solving skills as well as broad interests and talents - from birdwatching to rocketry, baking to welding, woodworking to gardening. These endeavors have allowed me to develop a common sense "get it done" problem solving ability.

**Have you volunteered with Willowsford before: Yes**  
**If so, in what capacity and for how long?**

I am currently the vice-Chair of the Willowsford Design Review Committee. I have served on the DRC for a little over 2 years (since January 2019).

I am also a volunteer Bluebird Monitor with the Willowsford Conservancy. I have been a monitor for three years (this is my fourth season).

**If you have volunteered elsewhere, in what capacity and for how long?**

I have volunteered as a photographer for various school events over many years, as well as the annual NoVA Maker Faire (<https://nova.makerfaire.com/about/>) for 3 years.

I served as a coach and then as the commissioner of the Challenger Division of the Reston Little League. Founded in 1989, the Challenger program is Little League's adaptive baseball program for individuals with physical and intellectual challenges (<https://www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/challenger/>). Coach for 3 years, commissioner for 2 years.

I am volunteer for The American Rocketry Challenge (<https://rocketcontest.org>), which involves staffing the annual event, which I have done for 6 years, as well as mentoring teams, which I have done at John Champe and Briar Woods High Schools during the 3 years prior to COVID.



**Why do you want to serve on the Conservancy Board of Trustees?**

I have a love of nature that dates back to my childhood that included family camping as far back as I can remember and through almost a decade in the Boy Scout programs. I have a passion for hiking, gardening and bird watching and I want to help the Conservancy provide all of the residents of Willowsford the opportunity to engage with nature. I have a strong desire to give back to the community in any way possible, as demonstrated by my work with the DRC, and the opportunity to do so in a way that supports my love of nature would be perfect.

**How do you feel you are qualified?**

I have experience in many different areas, a strong work ethic, and a genuine enthusiasm for the mission of the Conservancy. My work with the DRC has given me insight into the Founder's vision for the community. I am a strong team player and handle myself with professionalism and integrity.

**What are your top priorities to accomplish should you be elected?**

Increase the opportunities for the community to engage with nature. While all of the villages have great trails, ponds and parks, only one really provides a convenient opportunity to engage with the farm operation or a community garden.



## 2021 Election of Directors Candidate Statement

**Candidate Name:** Karyn Moreland

**Willowsford Property Address:** 41149 Shasta Daisy Ct,  
Aldie, VA 20105



**How long have you been an owner at Willowsford:** 3 Years

**Briefly describe your professional and educational background, as well as any special skills or experience you would bring to the board:**

I am a Professional Engineer, and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Notre Dame. My most recent work experience was with Fairfax County. I began my career with the County as a civil engineer, designing roadway infrastructure for Fairfax County. I also served for 7 years in Site Review, where I was responsible for approving development applications ranging from lot grading plans and subdivision site plans to major developments including Westfields business park in western Fairfax County. I completed my career serving 20 years in the Department of Transportation, where I served for 12 years as a Section Chief and was responsible for a staff of 20 and a budget of over \$3 billion in public transportation funds. I worked on numerous infrastructure projects including the I-95, I-395, I-495, and I-66 Express Lanes, the Fairfax County Parkway, and the Springfield Interchange, as well as several Metrorail projects. My section was responsible for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and we worked extensively with the Park Authority and others whose main mission was environmental stewardship; critical considerations on all of our projects.

**Have you volunteered with Willowsford before:** Yes

**If so, in what capacity and for how long?**

I have served our Willowsford Community as a member of the Covenants Committee of the Design Review Committee (DRC). Additionally, I have been a resident volunteer to the Willowsford Conservancy for 3 years, assisting with functions including the annual Community Campout.

**If you have volunteered elsewhere, in what capacity and for how long?**

I have served on a previous HOA Board, on the Architectural Review Committee. I have coached and supported youth and high school sports for 12 years, and Special Olympics for 2 years. I was also a paid and volunteer tutor while in college.

**Why do you want to serve on the Conservancy Board of Trustees?**

I believe strongly in civic duty, active participation, and community service. Preservation of our natural environment and open spaces is critical to the continued success and enjoyment of our neighborhood. The Willowsford community is important to all of us and I hope to contribute to our present and future successes as a resident owner representative to the Willowsford Conservancy Board of Trustees.

**How do you feel you are qualified?**

Throughout my engineering career, environmental assessment and preservation was the critical cornerstone of every project. In addition, I have extensive experience in reviewing and executing projects with a focus on pedestrian and bicycle initiatives. One of the recent contracts I managed for Fairfax County was a comprehensive Trail Assessment, to document condition and need as well as planning, programming, budget and analysis. Finally, in addition to my career in civil service, I have served in an array of volunteer capacities with proven results as an organized, patient, open-minded and collaborative steward.

**What are your top priorities to accomplish should you be elected?**

As a candidate for the Conservancy Board, I will strive to preserve and advance the vision and culture that the Willowsford Founders and residents envisioned for our community. This includes sustainable farming, preservation and improvement of our parks, trails, and open spaces, education and community collaboration, and stewardship of all the unique features that have made our Willowsford Community the most sought-after place to live in the National Capital Region. With extensive service on previous HOA Boards and a 30-year career dedicated to public service, I am confident I can represent the diverse views of our growing community by serving on the Conservancy Board as we transition from Founder control to resident owners. A Professional Engineer by trade, I possess a wealth of infrastructure and environmental conservancy experience, and am confident I can be an asset to our community. I am also proud that three generations of Moreland's call Willowsford home.

## 2021 Election of Directors Candidate Statement

**Candidate Name:** Paul Newman

**Willowsford Property Address:** 41001 River Cane Place, Aldie, VA 20105

**How long have you been an owner at Willowsford:** Moved into the Greens in July 2019.

**Briefly describe your professional and educational background, as well as any special skills or experience you would bring to the board:**

I currently serve as the housing analyst for Loudoun County's Office of Housing. I began my career managing portfolios of residential rental communities throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut for Beacon Communities, then progressed into providing market research and consulting services for residential developers, builders, and owners throughout the United States with Delta Associates, and then the National Apartment Association. I've also worked for Fairfax County's Department of Planning and Development, where I presented zoning applications before the Board of Zoning Appeals, as well as their Office of Community Revitalization, where I co-authorized urban design guidelines for the redevelopment of Tysons. I have a master's in real estate from Georgetown University, and graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor of arts in urban planning and policy, and two minors in real estate and residential property management.



**Have you volunteered with Willowsford before: No**  
**If so, in what capacity and for how long?**

Although I have not directly volunteered with Willowsford, my husband David has volunteered with egg-washing for the farm, and is involved in the Archery Club. We have also participated in the CSA program and regularly utilize our beautiful trail system. I have participated in Conservancy workshops.

**If you have volunteered elsewhere, in what capacity and for how long?**

I have been volunteering with New Journey Church of Centreville since 2019 in a variety of capacities, including helping with service set-up, facilitating prayer groups, and speaking at retreats. I also volunteered with food distribution at the Capital Area Food Bank in 2016, food distribution with the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, TX in 2014, landscaping and physical improvements for the town of Blacksburg, VA for a 5-month period in 2012, and food distribution with the Union Gospel Mission of Dallas, TX in 2011.

**Why do you want to serve on the Conservancy Board of Trustees?**

Like so many other Willowsford residents, the Conservancy and nature-oriented community amenities are what attracted us here versus any other community in

Loudoun County and Northern Virginia. As Loudoun and the Transition Policy Area continue to grow with new development, I feel it is extremely important for Willowsford residents and the surrounding community to properly appreciate, steward, and advocate for our land to ensure we remain an attractive, desirable, and enriching place to live. My ultimate hope is we inspire other Loudoun communities and developments to emulate our nature-oriented focus.

**How do you feel you are qualified?**

I have experience managing multiple communities covering thousands of homes, and being directly responsible for their financial performance, resident satisfaction, and successful marketing for retaining and attracting residents. In my very first job, I turned around an unprofitable community within a year through an aggressive mix of tailored marketing, targeted re-investments, and an emphasis on quick responses to resident concerns. As a result, I was the youngest employee at Beacon Communities to have been promoted to a regional position at 23 years old, and was the only employee to have received a bonus within my first year with the company.

**What are your top priorities to accomplish should you be elected?**

I would like to ensure the financial and operational longevity of the farm. While it appears the move to the Farmstand Online has greatly helped, I would like to continue a long-term focus on the success of all our programs. I would also like to foster good relations between the Conservancy and the HOA so Willowsford residents feel their concerns are being addressed in practical ways.

## 2021 Election of Directors Candidate Statement

**Candidate Name:** John Pellerito

**Willowsford Property Address:** 23035 Welbourne Walk Court, Ashburn, Virginia 20148

**How long have you been an owner at Willowsford:**  
6 years, 9 months



**Briefly describe your professional and educational background, as well as any special skills or experience you would bring to the board:**

My formal education was focused on business management, however as a student of Colorado State University, my informal education was spending time outdoors learning about land stewardship and land management from some of the best professors in the country. My entire professional career has been in homebuilding, land development and commercial real estate, so I have developed significant experience in the planning, development and management of a residential community. I was specifically involved in the early stages of planning for Willowsford and I have seen how it has evolved from a forward thinking concept into a truly amazing and unique community surrounded by the Conservancy lands. I also have an understanding of land use policies, zoning, land management regulations, and other development considerations.

**Have you volunteered with Willowsford before: No**  
**If so, in what capacity and for how long?**

**If you have volunteered elsewhere, in what capacity and for how long?**

Limited recent volunteer experience outside of boy scouts, football coach and other children's sports

**Why do you want to serve on the Conservancy Board of Trustees?**

One of the primary reasons my family was attracted to Willowsford is because of the Conservancy and the unique amenities such as the farm, trails, camp sites and other open space. I want to ensure that the Conservancy continues to thrive and enrich the community, which will require increased resident input and awareness as the community transitions into a resident controlled board for the HOA and Conservancy. I believe that I can offer a resident perspective having lived in the community for 6+ years, having participated in the CSA from its inception and regularly use the trails and other open space amenities. In addition, I have an interest in land management and the functions of the conservancy and I have a passion for the outdoors and maintaining our beautiful community.

**How do you feel you are qualified?**

My educational background combined with my professional career has been focused on business management and real estate development. While not directly applicable, I believe having an understanding of how to successfully manage a business gives me a skill set that can be applicable to many different types of organizations including the Conservancy. I have also been a resident of Willowsford for over 6 years and I ride and hike on the trails, enjoy viewing the abundant wildlife, participate in the CSA and have a firsthand knowledge of why the Conservancy is so important to Willowsford. The developers and staff of Willowsford have done great work in establishing the framework for the healthy management of the conservancy land, however this needs to continue into the future, long after the developer control period, which requires increased resident participation and effort. I am passionate about ensuring that this is accomplished and residents continue to get the most out of the conservancy now and in the future.

**What are your top priorities to accomplish should you be elected?**

As residents of Willowsford, we all have a vested financial interest in the Conservancy through our property values and the community amenities that we all enjoy. Financial security of the Conservancy and strength of the budget and cashflow is the top priority. My understanding from attending Conservancy board meetings is that overall the conservancy is on solid financial footing. From my perspective, I don't feel that the vast majority of residents care about the Conservancy in the way that they should and I think another major priority should be awareness and education. For example, I know only a small percentage of residents participate in the CSA, however all of the residents benefit through increased property values and having the farm and other amenities located within the community. The Conservancy has done solid job in outreach through the weekly emails and regular events, however I think a priority should be to further engage the community. I have a number of ideas that I would like to bring to the board to help bring more focus on the mission of the Conservancy and to get residents more interested in the events and offerings such as the CSA.

## 2021 Election of Directors Candidate Statement

**Candidate Name:** Jake Virag

**Willowsford Property Address:** 25824 Sandstone Shelf Pl

**How long have you been an owner at Willowsford:**  
4 years

**Briefly describe your professional and educational background, as well as any special skills or experience you would bring to the board:**

Currently I am a Cisco Services Delivery Manager in US Public Sector. I lead a team of 24 engineers who provide technical expertise in Route Switch, Security, Data Center and Collaboration for the Federal Law Enforcement Region which consists of Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security Agencies. Prior to my employment and Cisco, I worked for ECS and provided Systems Engineering and Technical Assistance (SETA) to the Defense Advanced Research Agency (DARPA). I am an Air Force Veteran who retired in 2015 at the rank of Lt. Col. During my service, I deployed in support of a number of contingency operations to include the Thailand Tsunami Rescue Operation (Operation UNIFIED ASSIST), as well as combat deployments Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM. During my professional career, I've held a number of leadership positions to include IT Manager, Squadron Commander and Air Staff Officer. I have a passion for conservation that started early in the Boy Scouts where I earned my Eagle Scout Badge.



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jake-virag-5a264710/>

**Have you volunteered with Willowsford before: Yes**  
**If so, in what capacity and for how long?**

I helped build the Willowsford Archery target stands (One Day). In addition, I lead a bi-annual neighborhood cleanup for the Sandstone Shelf Cul De Sack.

**If you have volunteered elsewhere, in what capacity and for how long?**

For the past four years, I have led Cisco's Northern Virginia Cisco High School Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Externship to encourage high school juniors and seniors to seek careers in STEM fields. To date, we have graduated 72 Externs who have gone on to attend technical universities to include MIT, Stanford, Berkeley, Virginia Tech and University of Maryland to name a few.

I also lead the Cisco Veteran ERO team for the US Capital Region. This team offers Cisco employees who are Veterans the opportunity to give back to the community.

While Active Duty, I was a Military Mentor at the Tragedy Assistance Program and Support (TAPS) Good Grief Camp. (2014-2015)

**Why do you want to serve on the Conservancy Board of Trustees?**

Willowsford is beautiful and unique neighborhood that greatly benefits from the Stewardship of the Conservancy. As an avid trail rider, I love the inclusion of the 2000 acres of open space, woodlands and natural habitat. I firmly believe that it is our responsibility to not only protect these spaces, but to improve them by introducing innovative ways to monitor and manage the health and welfare of these functioning ecosystems. I believe my years of leadership uniquely qualify me to add great value to the Conservancy and I'd love to leave a legacy of serving my community while working to implement constant improvement in programs, services and transparency and accountability.

**How do you feel you are qualified?**

I have over 25 years of leadership experience in both the private and public sector. I have a strong background in resource management, prioritizing scarce resources, budgeting and advocacy to obtain improved outcomes and strong results.

As an avid explorer of the Willowsford trail system, I have a strong understanding of the value and condition of the existing trails and their supporting structures.

I have a passion for conservation and am a strong advocate of maintaining and increasing the health and welfare of our valuable ecosystems. I encourage the use of renewable resources and believe we can introduce better ways to ensure our beautiful neighborhood remains a model for other neighborhoods nationwide.

**What are your top priorities to accomplish should you be elected?**

1. Protect our shared open spaces, woodlands natural habitat and wildlife
2. Lead volunteer teams to ensure these spaces are increasingly maintained and free of trash and debris
3. Introduce a Willowsford volunteer drone core to monitor the health and welfare of the ecosystem
4. Increase neighborhood awareness of Conservancy initiatives, reduce manmade damage to these environments
5. Encourage awareness, use and participation of existing facilities trails and events