



**Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2026**

In attendance from the committee:

Gene, Naisa, Deborah, Tom, Lee, Malvi, Julie, anyone else?

Others in attendance:

Charles Graybeal, Conservancy Board Chair, Ashish Kapoor, Conservancy Board Liaison for Fundraising, Sophie Lambert (staff), Chris (Deer Management Program), Susie (HOA Community Manager), some residents joined via Zoom

The meeting started at 5:30 pm.

Resident Comments

- Susie, the new HOA Community Manager, introduced herself and expressed interest in learning more about Conservancy initiatives.
- No additional resident comments were received.

Education Session – Deer Management Program

Chris provided an overview of the Conservancy's deer management program, including its background, structure, and current opportunities for improvement. The overview included the history of the program from inception by the developer with the Conservancy and DWR. This was followed by the early resident reactions to the use of archery and firearms to curb the deer population to current concerns about non-resident participation or the program not harvesting enough deer. Chris shared some of the important aspects of the program as a management program with strict qualification requirements following all county and state laws. Oversight includes orientation, assigned zones, equipment checks, and incident monitoring. Participation requires a significant time commitment (~60 hours per season).

While the program has remained largely unchanged since its inception in 2016 with some small evolutions along the way, the board would like to see an increase in resident participation. This will also require an increase in communication and transparency of the program. Some potential improvements were discussed, such as a possible mentorship program for new hunters, an increase in awareness of the program through newsletters and website, sharing of the application form and requirements, and an event this summer with DWR showcasing equipment and safety practices. The youth program, where DMP hunters can bring a young family member into the stand with them, has been very successful and there is consideration of expanding youth hunting to throughout the season (liability will be assessed). There were questions about

possibly outsourcing or contracting to harvest more deer. There was also discussion about the need to dive deep into the program's data, improve efficiency, and keep assessing the impacts of weather and acorn production.

Fundraising & Grants

Ashish shared that meetings are planned in the coming weeks with solar installers, including Paradise, Convert, and Mountain View Solar. He also noted that there may be additional grant opportunities worth pursuing, particularly those focused on food access and partnerships addressing economic disparities.

Tom provided an update on the grant applications to date, noting challenges with registration systems that can delay access to application details and impact submission deadlines, including for the Dominion Energy grant. He recommended focusing efforts on higher-value grants rather than smaller opportunities. Tom also shared that some recent applications were unsuccessful while others remain pending, and noted that certain grants may result in ongoing maintenance obligations beyond the initial funding period.

During discussion, the committee considered whether to engage residents as grant writers or researchers. However, it was noted that the primary constraint is not grant writing capacity, but rather building relationships with foundations and aligning our pitch to the funding opportunities.

Community Survey

The working group has reviewed the 2021 survey questions and results. They have developed a draft for the 2026 survey, incorporating updates and new areas of focus. One additional working group meeting is planned prior to finalizing the survey, with a target distribution timeframe of May–June 2026. Committee members were asked to review the draft survey and provide feedback.

In discussing survey tools, options such as SurveyMonkey and Mailchimp were considered. The group emphasized the importance of selecting a platform that can limit responses to one per household and discussed the potential value of offering an incentive to encourage participation.

Mapping Initiative

The committee discussed the need to review existing maps and identify any gaps or missing information. There was also interest in conducting a tour at the Farm this April and then of the Fleetwood operations in the late spring/summer.

Communications & Collateral

Sophie shared that the design of the edited Annual Report will kick off next week. Staff are also working on three brochures – Farm, Conservancy internal and Conservancy external.

Action Items

Sophie will review and validate the project list as a final check prior to coordination with Farm staff to ensure alignment and applicability.

Events & Community Engagement

Deborah gave feedback on the request for 15-year anniversary ideas from the CAC> She proposed the farm hosting a celebration envisioned as a family-friendly daytime event with music and food trucks. Sophie shared the possibility of two events to mark the occasion and also hosting the “Wine Down for a Cause” event again this fall.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2026, at Sycamore House.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.