

Draft Minutes for September 17, 2019

The meeting began at approximately 7:09pm.

Board members present were Kelly Foltman, ~~Louise Cotulla~~, Emily Houston, Stephanie Jennings, ~~Christie Kimberlin~~, Michelle (Sheli) King, Marion Lee, Reid O'Connor, and ~~Janet Vandervaart~~.

Approval of August minutes:

August minutes were approved

Membership report: Sheli

No update

Treasurer report: Stephanie

Current balance is \$2,649.70. LCEA had to renew registration with State Corporation Commission which cost \$31 total. \$19 was also paid to Constant Contact. A \$600 check was written for the 501(c)6 application and that will be taken out of the account once the application is approved.

LPAT/PROS update: Kelly

Kelly reported the group had prepared scope of work for a consultant. They identified three very quick more walkable trails in the Ashburn/Eastern area that don't require money but will help get the word out. These trails are not accessible to horses or mountain bikers. At the next meeting the group will discuss areas they can open up with estimated timelines. They also had a conversation about Potomac Heritage Trail to have it run from Elizabeth Mills to Bless Park – a new section was opened up the week of the meeting. The trail is done, but not open yet to horses and mountain bikers. The trail runs east of Leesburg following the Potomac and goes through the Trump Golf Course. The committee is still moving forward with Banshee Reeks. Most of the controversy revolves around a misunderstanding about horses bringing in invasive species and or eroding trails. Emily mentioned that several local politicians had also mentioned the invasive species issue.

Marion asked about Oatlands and if it could become part of the system. Kelly has had several meetings with the new Director. The Director wants to have a MOU for the five user groups to sign. The trails fees would follow the fees structure already in place at Oatlands. Oatlands would like to have trail users maintain the trails, but they don't have heavy duty equipment. Users would like Oatlands to maintain the trails. Kelly mentioned a sale of trail tags could make up the difference and cover mowing costs. The base rate is from \$75 to \$150. They could possibly add \$25 on top of that to cover trail maintenance. Stephanie asked about whether you could just walk around the property and Kelly said that was not possible. The LCEA Board suggested the possibility of adding educational historical markers throughout the trail system. Oatlands just opened up two houses on the property as Airbnbs that you enter from the Old Carolina Road. Emily expressed concern about this area being paved.

Aberdeen property: Kelly

Kelly, Janet, and Stephanie mapped about five miles of trails just on the perimeter. This does not include bisecting any trails, which would add a possible six to seven miles. Kelly has emailed Mayor Fraser to formalize how users can access the property. Signage and a better gate is needed. The Town is currently working to determine how best to use the conservation tax credits from the property.

By laws and 501 status review:

All the documents have been sent. LCEA is just waiting to have them reviewed. Kelly asked about timeframe and Sheli said we would likely need to answer a few questions in the mail first.

Conservation Coalition candidate forum:

Emily explained that there was a scheduling conflict with the forum as it was scheduled on same day as the COLT Forum. The last COLT forum in Lovettsville was very well attended. 130 questions were submitted, but only 12 were read to the candidates. LCEA questions did not make it. The first questions were candidate specific, then they opened it up to general questions. There are two more of these forums – Oct 4 and Oct 9 (Ida Lee). In addition to League of Women Voters there is an event being hosted by the Lockett's Ruritans. Save Rural Loudoun also submitted a questionnaire to candidates. Emily suggested we put a few questions on our website and get a few candidates to answer our questions. Kelly asked how to get to them. Emily suggested we mail three or four questions. The Board decided against this. Kelly asked how the candidates did and Emily gave a recap of the forum. Emily will attend the upcoming Blue Ridge forum. Board agree that LCEA should have been more proactive and sent questions to candidate months ago as momentum is now being lost. All present agreed LCEA needs to be more vocal.

TLAER update:

All present reviewed the printed trifold and gave edits. Board decided to print around 250-500 trifolds depending on cost. Stephanie suggested not having them printed local so as to cut cost. Emily asked if there was any chance to have them in a week because she does the *Horse Times* delivery and could drop them at local businesses then. All agree on levels of sponsorship. Kelly said she would make a google doc with prospective sponsors. Sheli heard back from Assistant Fire Chief and was waiting to set a meeting date for October.

Shirts:

All present picked up their shirts. Remainder of shirts went home with Sheli to be distributed.

New Business:

Board discussed hanging a banner at Another Turn Tack for \$600 a year. All present decided it would not likely result in increased membership.

Next Meeting: October 15, 2019 – 7 pm. National Sporting Library & Museum, 102 The Plains Rd. Middleburg, VA.