

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF LANCASTER COUNTY  
MEETING JANUARY 11, 2006

President Charles Costello called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. There were approximately 30 members in attendance. He introduced Mary Louisa Pollard, President of the Northern Neck Land Conservancy (NNLC). Mary Louisa told members that the 501 (c) (3) organization is about two years old and is one of more than 3000 land conservancies in the U.S. with about 30 in Virginia.

The mission of the NNLC is to help preserve open space in perpetuity. NNLC serves the five counties of the Northern Neck. Mary Louisa showed members a DVD about the organization. The DVD was co-funded by the Bank of Lancaster and Chesapeake Bank.

A Land Preservation Agreement, or Conservation Easement, restricts development while owners still may live on the property. Among the recent parcels placed under easement by the NNLC is one of 1600 acres in Northumberland County and a small parcel in Lancaster Courthouse owned by Treenie Chilton. Mary Louisa told the FOLC that organizations can hold easements after they have been in existence for a period of time and that county governments can also hold easements. Guest Tony Callaghan said that he and member Frances were part of 22 property owners that purchased 30 acres and placed it in easement. The easement allows only farming. The easement is leased to a farmer. Mary Louisa suggested that conservation easements should be included in Comprehensive Plans.

Charlie announced that the FOLC will change its status to 501 (c) (4). Under this status, the organization will not have to pay taxes, but will still be able to lobby.

Charlie announced a workshop, Vision 2048, to be held this year in Northumberland County. The workshop will discuss shoreline development. FOLC will support the workshop with a donation of \$150. Russell Arendt will lead the workshop.

Charlie also noted that the Virginia Department of Health is conducting a seminar March 6 – 8. He had no additional information on the seminar at this time.

The county has not yet signed the contract with the consultant to begin work on revising the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission will meet next week to discuss the capital improvement budget. No items have been submitted for this budget.

Charlie displayed the Kilmarnock Comprehensive Plan and said that a copy was available in the Lancaster Community Library. He said that there is still no information on Walmart, although Charlie was asked whether he wanted to be on Kilmarnock's architectural committee re Walmart!

Wiley Wright spoke on the Dillon rule, a rule of construction (or laws) utilized when local governments determine whether they have the power to adopt regulations. According to the Virginia Constitution, local laws must be “expressly granted, essential, and indispensable.” Local governments don’t have power except that which the State grants them. The Dillon rule will be the subject of Kilmarnock’s public forum, which will have the joint Planning Commission and Town Council present per info in the paper.

The meeting then turned to a discussion of the Vision Statement. Charlie noted that Nick Ferriter was the original drafter and Barb Dietz melded everyone’s comments. Nick noted that the Vision Statement was intended to be the introduction to the Comprehensive Plan. Anker Madsen said that it should be thought of as where we want the county to go. Charlie wants to send the Vision Statement to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. Bruce Burgess said the statement was a fine document, that it is an overarching statement of where the county should go. It provides a way that future actions can be measured.

Walt Fadeley said that the problem with the statement is that it doesn't make provisions for development. Anker agreed, that we need to be realistic. There was a discussion of the part of the Vision Statement dealing with "Development Pressures." Some thought that it was too negative. Kerley LeBoeuf suggested that the board of FOLC and its officers make a final determination on the words in the Vision Statement. Charlie told these people to send their comments to Barb Dietz.

Board member Diane Jordan has not attended meetings and Charlie indicated that she was moving away. Marilyn Hedges nominated Barb Dietz to replace her. The motion passed unanimously.

Charlie talked about having Lindsay Trittipoe speak to us about the PSA. Charlie will attempt to get Lindsay to address the FOLC at its next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.