

**AGRICULTURAL AND PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT
RIGHTS COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 28, 2016**

The meeting of the Stafford County Agricultural and Purchase of Development Rights Committee for Monday, November 28, 2016, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Robin Long in the County Administration Conference Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr. Government Center.

Members Present: Robin Long, Benjamin Rudasill, Jeff Adams, John Howe, Marty McClevey, and Thomas Hale

Members Absent: Craig DeBernard

Staff Present: Kathy Baker, Joe Fiorello and Denise Knighting

Guests Present: None

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Long called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Knighting to call the roll.

Ms. Knighting called the roll and stated there was a quorum with six members present

2. Public Comment

Mrs. Long stated since there were no members of the public present she would move on to the approval of minutes. She asked if there were any comments.

3. Approval of Minutes – September 26, 2016

Mr. Howe made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Mr. Rudasill seconded.

The motion passed 6 – 0 (Mr. DeBernard was absent).

4. Staff Update

- PDR Program Update

Ms. Baker stated progress has been made on the Crow's Nest Phase III project. She stated there were four adjacent parcels with total 127 acres. She stated the Board of Supervisors approved the purchase in October and it should be complete by spring. She stated the purchase of these parcels will provide additional road frontage and provide a much needed buffer for the Heron Rookery. She stated with the closing of the Harris property, that brings the total to 447 acres under easement, which equals 115 development rights retired.

5. New Business

- PDR Program – Next Steps

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Ms. Baker stated she did not have any updated figures for the rollback funds. That information should be updated in January. She suggested the Committee discuss the time frame at the January meeting. If a call for applications was made it would take approximately three to four months, and matching grant applications would be submitted in the fall. She also suggested the Committee consider discussion of the cost per development right. She stated she would invite Mike Keyes from the Commissioner of Revenue's office to discuss property values. She stated the Commission suggested changes to the Ordinance last November, and it still has to go before the Board of Supervisors for approval. She stated she would send it to the Commission members with the suggested changes for an additional review or suggestions. Once everyone has reviewed the Ordinance she would send it to the Board of Supervisors in February or March.

6. Unfinished Business

- Agricultural Support of Microbreweries

Mr. Howe stated he had a conversation with Agri-Tourism concerning getting farmers and brewers together and stated he felt some of the questions farmers would ask would be concerning specific barley, quality factors, the use of pesticides, would there be enough volume to warrant a change in barley types and if the brewers required specific grains, no crop insurance would be available.

Ms. Baker asked if the State Department of Agriculture could help with education.

Mr. Howe stated there was a University in Blacksburg that was working on microbreweries and he thought he could have someone come here for a discussion.

Mrs. Long stated she would contact the local breweries to see their specific needs and bring the information back to the January meeting.

Mr. Adams expressed his concern for breweries in the agricultural areas because of wells running dry and tractor trailers entering the property.

Mr. McClevey asked how much the county would receive in taxes for breweries.

Ms. Baker stated she would talk to Economic Development to see if they had any information.

7. Next Meeting

- December 26, 2016 (County holiday – consider rescheduling)

Mrs. Long stated the follow-up information would be heard at the January meeting and did not see any new business to discuss at the December meeting. She asked for a motion to cancel the meeting.

Mr. Howe made a motion to cancel the December meeting and meet again January 23, 2017.

Mr. Ruadsill seconded.

The motion passed 6 – 0 (Mr. DeBernard was absent).

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8. Adjournment

Mrs. Long asked if there was any other business to discuss. Hearing none she adjourned the meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.