



**MINUTES**  
 Board of Trustees Meeting  
 St. Margaret’s School – Tappahannock  
 June 1, 2023

**ATTENDANCE**

**Trustees:**

Sissy Crowther, Chair  
 Viola Baskerville  
 Eleanor Brown  
 Elizabeth Copeland  
 Tack Richardson (virtually @ 12:30 p.m.)

**Staff:**

Brett Glymph, Executive Director  
 Nathan Burrell, Director of Community  
 Conservation and Government Relations  
 Bobbie Cabibbo, Executive Assistant  
 Anna Chisholm, Deputy Director  
 Kathy Combs, Finance Manager  
 Leslie Grayson, Deputy Director  
 Martha Little, Deputy Director  
 Dave Morton, IT Director

**Absent:**

Ali Afonja  
 Elsie Smith

**Other Attendees:**

Ellen Shepherd, Virginia United Land Trusts Vault  
 Lisa Beaver  
 Kim Biasioli, Piedmont Environment Council  
 Stephanie Tallon, Farm Bureau  
 Mary Carson Stiff, Wetlands Watch  
 Natasha Skelton

The chair opened the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

**Approval of the Order of Business**

Motion made by Eleanor Brown to approve the order of business; motion seconded by Viola Baskerville and passed unanimously. It was noted that there may be timing issues with those remoting into the meeting so flexibility may be needed.

**Public Comments**

None were offered.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Eleanor Brown to approve the March 16, 2023, Board of Trustees Meeting Draft Minutes as presented; motion seconded by Viola Baskerville and passed unanimously.

**Director’s Report**

Brett reported:

- that the Preservation Trust Fund (PTF) statute has changed as of July 1 2023 – Private land trusts and localities will be able to use PTF as a source of funding for cost only projects.
- that the LTA Rally is in Portland Oregon this year and encouraged trustees interested in going let us know.

- that the VaULT Conference in Harrison, had approximately 300 attendees who participated in education and networking seminars, including a CLE that Brett and 2 other attorneys presented.
- that at the VaULT conference a celebration, led by Senator Hanger, of 1,000,000 acres under protection since the Land Preservation Tax Credit was instituted in 2000.
- there will be significant turnover in the legislature due to retirements.
- that at the Environment Virginia Symposium (EVS), VOF along with partners, was a recipient of the Governor’s Gold Level Award of Environmental Excellence for the Blackwater Park Grant Project.
- that during that EVS, a field trip led by VOF staff, to House Mountain was the only trip offered.

During this time Ellen Shepherd from the thanked the trustees for the capacity building grant from VOF that has helped Virginia’s private land trusts.

During this time Pulaski County High School who received a \$25,000 GO Grant in 2021 gave a presentation on the Sensory Trail progress. The presentation was led by Carly Pavan-Ballard the Agricultural Science Teacher at Pulaski County High School and narrated by students December Ward, Judy Sawyer and Lindsey Morgan.

### **Owned Lands Report and Resolution**

This report was moved up in the agenda to allow full board participation on the Strategic Plan topic. Leslie Grayson reviewed the report included in the meeting materials. Map displayed is on file with the permanent of this record.

Motion made by Eleanor to pass the *Resolution to Accept Gifts of Land Connecting the North and South Sections of Bull Run Preserve*; motion seconded by Viola Baskerville and passed unanimously. (See Attachment A)

### **Resolution Authorizing Amendment of Easements to Include “Safe Harbor” Language**

Motion made by Eleanor Brown to approve the *Resolution Authorizing Amendment of Easements to Include “Safe Harbor” Language*; motion seconded by Elizabeth Copeland and passed unanimously. (See Attachment B)

### **Strategic Plan 2023-2028 Adoption**

Motion made by Eleanor Brown to add Conserve Virginia to the Measures and approve the Strategic Plan with that addition; motion seconded by Elizabeth Copeland and passed unanimously. (See Attachment C)

### **Financial Report & FY24 Budget & Resolution**

The Finance, Audit and Compliance committee recommend approval of this budget. Motion made by Eleanor Brown to approve the *FY24 Budget and Resolution* as presented; motion seconded by Viola Baskerville and passed unanimously. (See Attachment D)

### **Coastal Resilience and Tree Grant Program Brief**

Mary Carson Stiff of Wetlands Watch narrated a presentation which is on file with the permanent record of this meeting.

## LAND CONSERVATION

### Visual Presentation

A presentation narrated by the Deputy Directors showing pictures of the proposed open space easement projects was presented. This presentation is on file with the permanent record of this meeting.

### Proposed Open Space Easement Projects

Motion made by Eleanor Brown to approve the open space easement projects listed below; motion seconded by Viola Baskerville and passed unanimously.

Project #	Applicant	Locality	Funding Source (s)	Acres
4573	Bowie, Lyda and Corbin	Caroline County	N/A	316.56
4791	DTG, LLC	City of Fredericksburg	Partial Purchase VLCF/PTF	56.1744
4809	Marvin Thomas Duncan Cromer	Caroline County	ACUB	174.6
4897	Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation	Campbell & Charlotte Counties	Partial Purchase VLCF/PTF	599.57
4904	Alfred B. and Catherine L. Quist	Albemarle County	Cost Only PTF	106.44
4907	Oliff, Bryan and Kari	Westmoreland County	REPI Partial Purchase	307.029
4908	Hidden River Myotis Lucifugus 37, LLC -	Highland County	Cost Only PTF	87.32
4914	Boiling Springs Rod and Gun	Bath County	N/A	152.18
4915	River Ridge Land and Cattle Company	Grayson County	N/A	183 +/-
4918	Lowe Brothers, Virginia General Partnership -	Southampton County	Partial Purchase NAWCA	237.78

### Land Conservation Grant Programs

Emily White began a presentation of Grant Report which was paused so the trustees could go in to Closed Session at 2:00 pm as planned.

### Closed Session

Eleanor Brown moved the following motion as read by Executive Assistant:

Madame Chair, I move that the Board go into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.3 & 7 and for:

1. consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiation or litigating posture of the public body, and consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel for:

- Consultation with legal counsel pertaining to litigation in Ball v VOF
- Lambert Foundation Parcel

This closed meeting will be attended only by members of the Board. However, pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 (F), the Board requests the VOF's Attorney in this matter, the Executive Director, the Deputy Directors, Executive Assistant, Director of Community Conservation and Government Relations and IT Manager attend as it believes their presence will reasonably aid the committee in its consideration of topics that are the subject of the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Copeland passed unanimously and the Closed Session began.

### **Certification of Closed Session**

The Executive Assistant read the following:

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees conducted a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712.D of the Code requires a certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Sissy Crowther so certified; Viola Baskerville so certified; Eleanor Brown so certified; Elizabeth Copeland so certified.

### **Resolution to accept offer for Lambert Foundation Parcel**

Motion made by Eleanor Brown to approve the resolution the *Resolution to Accept Offer for Lambert Foundation Parcel*; motion seconded by Viola Baskerville and passed unanimously. (See Attachment E)

### **Ball v VOF**

A motion was made by Eleanor Brown to authorize the Executive Director in consultation with the Chair, to move forward with settlement discussions in Ball v VOF; motion seconded by Viola Baskerville and passed unanimously.

### **Land Conservation Grant Programs**

Emily continued presentation which is on file with the permanent record of this meeting.

### **PTF FY24 Allocation Balance Resolution**

Motion made by Eleanor Brown to pass the *PTF FY24 Allocation Balance Resolution* with a correction. The amounts are as follows:

- 250k for Easement Assistance
- 250k for Locality co-holds
- 3.5M for PTF Grants

Motion seconded by Viola Baskerville and passed unanimously. (See Attachment F)

**Preservation Trust Fund (PTF) Grant Program Recommended Projects**

Motion made by Viola Baskerville to approve the grant projects and funding as listed below; motion seconded by Eleanor Brown and passed unanimously.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Locality</b>	<b>Funding Approved</b>
Capital Region Land Conservancy	Burton Family Farm: Brown Parcel	Chesterfield	\$360,000
City of Norfolk	Elizabeth River Trail Larchmont Trailhead	Norfolk	\$404,625
City of Suffolk	Hobson Park Project	Suffolk	\$44,550
Franklin Parks Foundation	Deer Creek Addition to Blackwater Park, Pt 2	Franklin, City of	\$100,000
Friends of Southwest Virginia	Big Cherry Lake, Big Stone Gap	Wise	\$150,000
Little Creek Kung Fu	Little Creek Native Free Food Forest	Petersburg	\$177,184
Shenandoah County	Shenandoah County Conservation and Public River Access Along the North Fork of the Shenandoah	Shenandoah	\$300,000
Town of Dungannon	On the Clinch to Learn, Discover, Enjoy	Scott County	\$150,000
Town of Honaker	Town of Honaker Outdoor Recreation Expansion	Russell County	\$148,000
Town of Vinton	Vinton’s Multi-Generational Park	Roanoke County	\$218,295

**Get Outdoors Fund Recommended Projects**

Motion made by Viola Baskerville to approve the grant projects and funding as listed below; motion seconded by Elizabeth Copeland and passed unanimously.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Locality</b>	<b>Funding Approved</b>
Autism Sanctuary, Inc.	Weekly Respite at Autism Sanctuary	Albemarle	\$25,000
Botanical Garden of the Piedmont	Equitable Access to World Water Week Programming	Albemarle	\$15,000
Dungannon Elementary School	Get Up & Go Playground Project	Scott	\$25,000
Friends of Fonticello Park	The Native Meadow Project: Creating Equitable Access to Natural Urban Educational Spaces in Fonticello Park	Richmond, City of	\$20,000

Greater Richmond Fit4Kids	Fit4Kids Game On, Girl! Field Trips	Richmond, City of	\$10,000
Ivanhoe Civic League	Ivanhoe Civic League Park & Horse Show Grounds	Carroll	\$25,000
Keep Prince William Beautiful	Dale City Elementary Trail & Outdoor Classroom Improvement	Prince William	\$10,000
Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission	MP-PAA Trail Blazer Initiative	Gloucester	\$25,000
Sperryville Community Alliance	Sperryville Trail Forest Canopy Restoration	Rappahannock	\$15,000
White House Farm Foundation	Accessible Bird Watching at Leopold's Preserve	Prince William	\$25,000
Wildrock	Wildrock's Outdoor Explorers Program	Charlottesville	\$2,500
Youth Sailing Virginia Inc.	Start Sailing Early at Youth Sailing Virginia!	Hampton	\$25,000

Motion made by Eleanor Brown to adjourn the meeting at 3:53 p.m.; motion seconded by Viola Baskerville and passed unanimously.