

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX**

**MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTAL DISTRICT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (AFDAC)**

DATE: Wednesday, October 30, 2024

TIME: 4:06 PM – 4:32 PM

LOCATION: Herrity Building Room 704

AFDAC Member Attendance

Name	Present (P)/ Absent (A)	Name	Present (P)/ Absent (A)
Lorenzo Gibbs	P	Eric David Cox	P
Jay Doshi	P	David Sanders	P
Mariette Hiu Newcomb	A	Charles Nichols	A
Andrew Painter, Chairman	P	Jeff Parnes	P
Gifford Hampshire	P	Sup. Kathy Smith	P

Staff Support in Attendance

Sophia Fisher	DPD
Nathalie Degraff	DPD
William Nance	DPD
Daniel Mould	DTA
Corey Fuller	DTA
Heather Hunter-Nickels	SWCD
Jacob Zielinski	VA DOF

Applicants in Attendance

Carol Mattusch
Richard Mason
Travis Brown
Lucy Masemer

Community Members in Attendance

None

Announcements

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Painter at approximately 4:06 p.m.

Old Business

Mr. Parnes moved to accept the Meeting Minutes from September 11, 2024, with one editorial revision. Mr. Sanders seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Popes Head Local A&F District

Mr. Painter called the item for renewal of the Popes Head Local A&F District (AFR-2024-SP-00003). Ms. Degraff gave a brief presentation. Ms. Hunter-Nickels and Mr. Zielinski noted that they had nothing to add.

Ms. Mattusch said that they are working to keep the property as it is, and that they see turkeys, foxes, vultures, and other wildlife on a regular basis.

Mr. Hampshire made a motion to renew the district, noting that this was among the first A&F districts to be established and that the family has been good stewards of the land. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parnes. The motion passed unanimously.

Cajoll Co Local A&F District

Mr. Painter called the item for the renewal of the Cajoll Co Local A&F District (AFR 83-D-006-05). Mr. Nance gave a brief presentation. Ms. Hunter-Nickels and Mr. Zielinski noted that they had nothing to add.

Mr. Painter noted that the vast majority of Great Falls has been carved up in smaller lots due to the prevalence of the R-E zoning district and that the subject property is one of the last remaining large parcels in that area.

Ms. Masemer said that she has lived on the property for her entire life, and now her two daughters live there as well. They are working hard to keep the farm going.

Mr. Hampshire made a motion to renew the district, seconded by Mr. Painter. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposed amendment to Fairfax County Code Chapter 115, Local Agricultural and Forestal Districts

Ms. Fisher reported that the Board of Supervisors authorized the advertisement of the proposed amendment of Chapter 115 of the County Code on October 22, and that the public hearing on the amendment is scheduled for December 3.

Upcoming A&F District Renewals

Ms. Fisher reported that the Cornfield Local A&F District has submitted an application for renewal and is currently going through the acceptance process. Once accepted, the application will be scheduled for an AFDAC meeting in early 2025. Ms. Fisher will be preparing renewal notices for the additional districts that are due to expire in 2025 and intends to send the notices in mid-December.

AFDAC Member Comments

Mr. Doshi complimented Ms. Fisher on how well the AFDAC meetings have been run and the organizational changes she has made to the overall program since she started managing it. The other AFDAC members agreed.

Mr. Parnes expressed concerns about an elected official who had made disparaging comments about the A&F program and wants the AFDAC to think about how to better advertise the program. Ms. Fisher noted that other than districts that had expired and had applied to rejoin the program, there have not been any new districts created since she started managing the program in 2022. A brief discussion ensued about ways to advertise the existence of the program to property owners who may qualify but are not aware that the program exists.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Next Meeting

The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.