

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX**

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

DATE: Wednesday, April 13, 2022

TIME: 4:04 PM – 4:31 PM

LOCATION: Electronic Meeting via Microsoft Teams

AFDAC Member Attendance

Name	Present (P)/ Absent (A)	Name	Present (P)/ Absent (A)
Stanley Franklin, Chairman	P	Eric David Cox	P
Jay Doshi	P	Kenneth Strafer, Ph. D.	P
Mariette Hiu Newcomb	P	Charles Nichols	P
Andrew Painter	P	Jeff Parnes	P
Gifford Hampshire	P	John Foust	A

Staff Support in Attendance

Kelly Atkinson DPD
Sophia Fisher DPD
Willie Woode NVSWCD

Community Members in Attendance

None

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:04 p.m.

Roll Call by Ms. Atkinson on behalf of Mr. Franklin

Announcements

Covid-19 Pandemic Special Motions

Mr. Franklin established the nature of the emergency that compelled these emergency procedures, the fact that the committee was meeting electronically, the type of electronic communication that was being used, and how public access to this meeting was arranged. Mr. Franklin moved that the Emergency Declaration caused by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe for the committee to physically assemble and unsafe for the public to physically attend any such meeting and that as such, the Freedom of Information Act's (FOIAs) usual procedures, which require the physical assembly of the committee and the physical presence of the public, cannot be implemented safely or practically. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parnes. The motion passed unanimously.

Given that each member of the Agricultural and Forestal District Committee was participating in the meeting from a separate location and in order to verify that a quorum of members was participating and that each member's voice was clear, audible, and at an appropriate volume for

all of the other members, Ms. Atkinson performed a roll call of members and asked each committee member participating in the meeting to state their name and the location from which they were participating. All participants could be heard and could hear each other.

Old Business

Mr. Franklin moved to accept the Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2021. Mr. Painter and Mr. Parnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Informational Items

Mr. Franklin noted that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors formerly approved the by-laws at the February 22, 2022 meeting. Copies of the adopted bylaws were provided to each member in advance of the meeting.

New Business

Mr. Franklin noted that with the adoption of bylaws, the committee needs to formally elect a Chairman. Mr. Franklin noted that he is not able to continue to serve as Chairman but will stay on the AFDAC. Mr. Franklin asked if Mr. Painter would serve as Chairman and he agreed. A formal vote will be taken at the June 2022 meeting.

Ms. Atkinson introduced Ms. Sophia Fisher, the new liaison to the AFDAC.

Ms. Atkinson noted that five Districts are eligible for renewal this year – Two (Rhinehart and Whitney) have been submitted; one is in process for submission (Atiyeh formerly Reed); one has not submitted (Foster-Britt); and one is not renewing (Jenkins).

Ms. Atkinson noted that she is also working on the 2021 A&F Annual Report and is on track to present this to the committee at the June meeting for endorsement.

Ms. Atkinson noted that some members of AFDAC have asked to meet in person. It was the majority opinion of those present to meet in person for the next meeting. Ms. Atkinson is going to confirm there are no restrictions to meet in person for the June meeting and also noted there is still the opportunity to remotely participate if someone desires.

Ms. Atkinson noted the County recently passed an ordinance that allows the Department of Code Compliance (DCC) to investigate complaints of uncontained running bamboo and seek civil penalties against property owners who fail to contain their running bamboo. Ms. Atkinson noted this does not go into effect until January 1, 2023 and as with any violation, the County would first seek to work with a property owner before imposing civil penalties. Further, this ordinance does not preclude bamboo, but simply seeks to ensure it is properly maintained onsite. Ms. Atkinson will reach out to the Director of DCC to obtain background information on this ordinance.

Mr. Cox and Mr. Painter thanked Mr. Franklin for his dedicated and incredible service to the AFDAC over the years.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Mr. Franklin motioned to close the meeting, and Ms. Newcomb seconded the motion. The vote was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.