

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX**

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

DATE: Thursday, October 14, 2021

TIME: 4:20 PM – 4:33 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.	A
Mariette Hiu Newcomb	P	Charles Nichols	P
Andrew Painter	A	Jeff Parnes	P
Gifford Hampshire	A	John Foust	A

Staff Support in Attendance

Tony Obuekwe DPD
Kelly Atkinson DPD
Dan Mould DTA
Jim McGlone VDOF

Community Members in Attendance

None

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:20 p.m.

Roll Call by the Chairman (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. Stanley 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. He further determined that the committee may conduct this meeting electronically through a dedicated audio-conferencing line and that the public could access the meeting by calling 1-571-429-5982 and entering the code: 489 041 210.

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, Mr. Franklin 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.

Old Business

None

Informational Items

Renewal Applications not received (expire at the end of 2021): Knipling

Mr. Franklin noted this upcoming expiration and asked if staff has received any recent submissions. Ms. Atkinson reported that contact had been initiated twice through certified mail with no response. Mr. Franklin stated that the November meeting would be the last for the year. Ms. Newcomb reminded the board that her case was up for renewal this year. Mr. Franklin assured Ms. Newcomb that her AR would be heard in November. Ms. Atkinson confirmed that her case would be on our agenda for the November meeting.

New Business

By-laws for AFDAC (to be voted on)

Policy for Participation in Meetings by Electronic Communication (to be voted on)

Mr. Franklin, using the Chairman's prerogative, postponed the vote on By-laws for AFDAC and Policy for Remote Participation in Meetings by Communication to the next meeting in November.

AR-87-S-003-04 (Cox) Local A&F District Application to renew a local district

Mr. Obuekwe provided staff's recommendation about the Cox Local A&F district report to the AFDAC committee. Mr. Franklin asked Mr. Cox for comments; Mr. Cox provided a background history of the property to the committee, including how they did not plan for agrotourism, but the farm evolved. He stated how grateful they had been for the opportunity to be owners of the farm that benefited the community and them. He also stated how fortunate they are that parkland surrounds the farm.

Mr. Parnes visited the property and met Mr. Cox on the property last evening (10/13/2021). He and Mr. Cox went over the outstanding issues from the previous comments on the soil and water conservation report.

Mr. Parnes stated that Mr. Cox adequately responded to those requests and that he has no issues. He stated that he was happy to move the motion for approval. Mr. Franklin stated that he had known Mr. Cox as a member of the AFDAC committee for years. He identified Mr. Cox as one of the few "get your hands dirty" farmers he knows.

Mr. Parnes moved for the committee to endorse the staff recommendation and recommend approval of the AR-87-S-003-04 Cox Local A&F district to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Parnes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Atkinson asked the AFDAC members if the 4:00 p.m. time for AFDAC Hearings is still good or if the member's preferred a different time. She explained that this is because of recent issues of not having enough members to form a quorum. Mr. Franklin and other members confirmed that 4:00 p.m. time works. Ms. Atkinson also stated that staff was planning to meet with Supervisor Foust at the beginning of November regarding A&F cases and AFDAC. Mr. Franklin noted that members of his District are part of AFDAC. Mr. Parnes also noted that all cases go to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors for review and approval.

The next meeting is November 18, 2021, for the Hearing on the Hiu Newcomb (Potomac Vegetable Farm) application.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Mr. Franklin thanked Staff for getting the committee together to run the online meeting smoothly.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.