

FRIENDS OF LANCASTER COUNTY  
ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 28, 2014

The annual meeting of the Friends of Lancaster County was called to order by President Charlie Costello at 4:30 p.m., January 28, 2014 at the Northside branch of the Bank of Lancaster.

Members approved the minutes of the January 21, 2013, meeting. Treasurer Marilyn Hedges reported that three checks were written last year for a total of \$213.15. There was no income. The balance at the beginning of 2014 was \$2,095.21. Members approved the treasurer's report.

Charlie reported that the current officers agreed to continue in 2014. Members approved the slate. Charlie Costello will be the president, Bill Warren will be the vice-president, Jo Chamberlain will continue as secretary, Marilyn Hedges will be the treasurer, and Tom Smith will be trustee. Joe Urban will continue to maintain our registration with the State of Virginia and maintain our web page.

There was a discussion of Lead Northern Neck, a recent program to identify and expand community leadership to solve problems of a variety of issues common to Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, and Middlesex Counties. Bill Warren noted that a recent meeting examined the judicial system processes and functions. Local heads of organizations, bankers, executives, realtors and supervisors are participants in Lead Northern Neck. Visions, a Northern Neck organization led by Joni Carter and whose purpose is to reduce poverty supports the initiatives of Lead.

Charlie reported that the Lancaster Board of Supervisors discussed "branding" during their January meeting. The presentation was by the Kilmarnock deputy town manager, Susan Cockrell, who did an excellent job. The goal is for visitors to "spend more and stay longer." The town of Kilmarnock has approved \$35,000 to promote this effort. Lancaster County supervisors were asked to consider providing an additional \$35,000 to aid in the effort. Both the town and Visions' Joni Carter are trying to get additional support from the State for what could be called an "Oyster Trail," similar to Virginia Wine Trails and the Crooked Road Trail in Southwestern Virginia using music as a binding medium to attract tourists to the area and aid the local economy.

Charlie noted that the Comprehensive Plan for the County was approved last year, and that discussion of public access to the water is ongoing. Members commented that the use of the word "ongoing" has been used for months, that an announcement will come "soon."

Member Nick Ferriter reported that native plants have been planted in the Lancaster Judicial Center's retention pond, but that prisoners dug up many plants

around the pond when asked to weed the area. The Native Plant Society has plans to plant more, but needs funding.

The Lancaster School Board will be on the second Monday of February at the Middle School. School Board Chairman Dr. Robert Westbrook plans to hold a public meeting for the three finalist candidates for Superintendent of Schools. Bill Warren noted that Superintendent of Schools in Lancaster County is either a stepping stone for younger candidates or a “swan song” for candidates for a last job before retirement.

Tom Smith and Nick Ferriter discussed new requirements for Lancaster County to establish and monitor a storm water management program. In 2012 the Virginia State Legislature revised the State’s Storm water Management Regulations to require that all Virginia localities adopt a local storm water management program by June 13, 2013. Lancaster County received a one-year extension and now must have a Virginia Storm Water Management Program (VSMP) in place by July 1, 2014. These regulations require a general permit for construction activities that disturb land in excess of 2500 square feet in any area of the county per adoption of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA). The plan must be approved by the locality and stamped by a licensed professional. In addition, the general permit will also require submission of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Lancaster County will be required to inspect sites for compliance. The State’s Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will ensure that the county complies with the requirements the State Legislature established in 2012. Currently, the Lancaster County program is still being drafted.

Member Bing Kallus said that his request to have the Board of Supervisors approve a “no wake” zone on John Creek adjacent to his property was granted under a pre-Revolutionary patent from the British Crown, a “king’s grant” that allows a property owner to claim ownership of a stream bottom.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Marilyn Hedges, for  
Jo Chamberlain, Secretary