

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2022**

Members present: Greg Hutchins Joel Mazelis Jacob Wiseman Nancy Nehls Nelson Bob Gale Kimberly DeChant Slater Solomon Robert Turner Matt Fusco (quorum = 6/11)	Non-members present: Gillian Phillips Haylee Madfis Ariel Zijp Avni Naik Michelle Pugliese Jess Laggis Jack Henderson
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There was a quorum, as there were 9 members present. The following discussion occurred between members present:

The Meeting was called to order at 8:05 am

- Chairperson Hutchins

Approval of Agenda

- Chairperson Hutchins

Approval of Minutes

- Ms. Nehls Nelson made a motion to approve the November 2021 minutes. Mr. Mazelis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of LCAB Meeting Dates for 2022

- The list of dates will be emailed out for Board Members to review, and the approval of dates will occur during the next meeting.

Updates from Land Conservation Agencies:

1. Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy

Jess Laggis

- Currently working on an application for transaction costs for Patricia Young's Homeplace and Full Sun Farm Ph II.

Michelle Pugliese

- Currently working on Ballard Cove and Robinson Creek easements; hoping to close the Ballard Cove easement by the end of this month.

2. Conserving Carolina
 - Land trust representative unable to attend, no report for this meeting.
3. RiverLink
 - **Jack Henderson**
 - Currently talking with a landowner on Fairfax Ave. about a potential easement project.

Gillian Phillips asked land trust representatives to fill out a stakeholder survey that she sent out to collect input for the upcoming Comprehensive Plan.

Ag Advisory Board (AAB) Update- Ariel Zijp

- Ms. Naik has put together an online survey that mimics the one Ms. Phillips referenced. This survey will be sent to LCAB members to fill out, the answers will then be condensed and submitted to Ms. Phillips as input for the Comp Plan.
- An online Project Ranking Form has been put together in hopes of streamlining the project ranking process for Board members.
- Ms. Zijp and Ms. Naik are putting together a presentation on farmland preservation in the County for the Environmental Subcommittee this Friday. The information in this presentation is based on Ms. Naik's capstone project focusing on farmland preservation priority mapping.
- Ms. Zijp has also been collecting budget estimates from land trust representatives for the upcoming budget.
- There is a meeting scheduled with the County Attorney to put together and go over LCAB by-laws. These will be sent out to members for review after they are put together.

Robinson Creek -SAHC

- Mr. Turner was present at the Robinson Creek site visit and provided other members a short report of the property. He spoke on the beauty of the property as well as the potential for water protection.
- Ms. Zijp shared Board members evaluation results, the property scored well on conservation value.
- Mr. Mazelis made a motion to approve the \$35,800 request for the project; the motion was seconded by Mr. Fusco. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Discussion/Questions

- The meetings will continue to be virtual.

With no other announcements, Board members took a 15-minute break and returned at 9:00 am for the joint LCAB-AAB meeting with Vice-Chair Nancy Nehls Nelson taking over for Mr. Hutchins.

LCAB-AAB Joint Meeting

- AAB members that joined the meeting included Terri Wells, Steve Duckett, and Chairperson David Lee.
- AAB members, LCAB members, and staff introduced themselves and the work that they do with land conservation.
- Ariel Zijp and Jennifer Harrison provided Board Members a summary of the budget amendment process on a project-to-project basis and the annual budget submission process (collecting budget estimates between LCAB and AAB). They talked about what kinds of costs must be included in budget estimates, as well as the timeline to have these ready in order for Ms. Zijp to organize and present them to County Management and the Board of Commissioners.
- Commissioner Terri Wells is planning on providing an annual update this year to show other Commissioners how the easement budget increase last year helped to expand conservation efforts.
- Ms. Harrison also talked about the Strategic Plan and the upcoming Comprehensive Plan and how funding and conservation goals are tied into those. Board members also discussed issues they thought were important and interesting to investigate more, including wildlife corridors and conservation subdivisions.
- Gillian Phillips informed members that Comprehensive Plan public engagement meetings are now all virtual due to COVID, she encouraged everyone to reach out to their contacts and push them to attend meetings.

With no further announcements and discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:09am.