



Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday, December 5, 2021, 2:00 pm
Runneymede Conservation Area

Board Members Present: Gordon Clark, Ed Harris, Pam Hay, Ty Cryan, Tom Watson, Paul Freestone, John Griffith, Janet Andersen, Brent Evans

Called to Order & Welcome: Gordon Clark, Outgoing President. Opening remarks: Amanda Gorman's reference to "touch trees" - when lost in a forest, identify a tree that you will revisit as you wander and try to find your way back. We have accomplished much in the last several years. In 2021 we conserved 45% of all of DLC's total conserved acres. TreesDavidson planted 133 trees. We addressed our financial processes and we have successfully completed two audits. Run for The Green this year was the most profitable ever thanks to Paul Freestone and Dave Cable. And a thank you to all those that have gotten behind the Forever Fund. It has allowed us to build this organization to have the capacity to do meaningful things around conservation. It has been a terrific year because of the contributions of many.

Introduction of Zack Wallace from the Audubon Society as the guest speaker after the annual meeting business requirements.

2. Board Governance Report: Tom Shandley, Chair

A. Election of New Board Members – Nominees & Bios

- 1) Cindy McIntosh
- 2) Bonnie Newell
- 3) Call for additional nominees: No other nominees were suggested.
- 4) Vote: the membership voted affirmatively on the two nominees.

B. Announcement of 2022 Officers - One-year terms

- 1) President – Paul Freestone
- 2) Vice President – Ed Harris
- 3) Secretary—Janet Andersen
- 4) Treasurer—Tom Watson

3. Remarks by Paul Freestone, President-elect: The DLC welcomed me 4 years ago we arrived. The DLC was open to concepts of the Forever Fund. 2021 was a very successful year. Thanks to Dave Cable for his mentorship. The Four Pillars remind me of my youthful years playing in the woods in Pennsylvania. The Ken Burns National Parks documentary series and his comment that nature permits us the opportunity to ask the fundamental questions: Who am I and what is my purpose? I think of this as I walk through our conserved properties. Looking forward to an exciting 2022.

4. Reflections, Recognitions & Goals - Dave Cable: Recognition of contributors to the Forever Fund, and the leadership of *Cambria Nielsen*, The Forever fund provides the catalytic funding for



conservation. Challenges we are facing include the increasing cost of land requiring us to be creative. The Forever Fund a critical component of driving forward with our mission of land conservation.

Recognize Gordon's role in guiding the organization over the last two transitional years and his on-going role at Trees Davidson.

Paul Freestone: Profound impact on the region. He is on the Mecklenburg County Park and Rec Commission, the Greenway advisory Committee, on the Board at WFAE. We have been the recipient of his leadership and commitment.

Janet Andersen: leader of our stewardship efforts which are vital to the Conservancy. Janet also serves tirelessly as our secretary and does a great job with everything she touches. She has been a key support and thought-partner for me (Dave) and her contributions are many and are greatly appreciated.

Tom Watson: Finances are in great shape thanks to his efforts. He has set the tone for our investment strategy and helped execute.

Brent Evans: Incredibly helpful on our IT front while also co-leading TreesDavidson. A significant asset for DLC on many levels.

John Griffith: Lead us through a strategic conversation this summer. Through his efforts we are putting together a long-term funding strategy which you will hear more about in the early months of 2022.

Pam Hay: As the Outreach Committee Chair, she has been instrumental with the articles in the newsletter and increasing exposure of the DLC. She also single-handedly crafted the Invasive Plant Manual which can be found on our web site.

Ed Harris: Has been very persistent and patient in having the conversation with landowners as part of the Land Conservation Committee. Ed is a key partner in advancing our most important and fundamental mission of land conservation.

Ty Cryan: Davidson student representative joined the board in mid-2021. His efforts are to increase linkage to the college and capitalize on the great opportunity to leverage the students, staff, and faculty as part of the DLC. Additionally he is helping with Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives for the DLC.

Tom Shandley (hound dog Shandley): Head of Governance Committee. We have to start with preparing for the recertification for our Land Trust accreditation in 2023. This Committee is at the forefront of ensuring the successful recertification. Tom is also instrumental in our land stewardship efforts.

Scott Tew: He brings a policy perspective from the high level of large corporations, and an acuity for sustainability issues. With his guidance we anticipate establishing a sound partnership relationship with corporate sponsors.



Davidson College Interns: Ethan Landon, Michael Yen, Anna Sharp, Chris Chao, Collier Ballard: Key students from Davidson College that have had the opportunity to be involved in meaningful learning projects and establishing a solid favorable relationship with the DLC.

The Four Pillars: We are working on all of them. If we don't do this work no one will. When we wake up we think about this community and feel the sense of urgency of the DLC mission. This is why DLC is so important to the future of our community. If we were part of a larger organization the effort would be diluted, not focused as they are. This work is hard and it takes focus and a community-wide effort. I am extremely grateful all our supporters and particularly to the DLC Board members for their leadership and strong commitment.

5. Special Guest – Zach Wallace, Audubon NC – “Birds Tell Us”

Audubon is 118 years old. We think of being a voice for birds. Conserved properties are our key partners. Key focus effort on the effect of climate change on birds and humans. Role is to educate key lawmakers at the state and national level about the Audubon Society and the need to protect areas for birds currently and into the future. We work on issues from climate change, rural land loss, to native plants. We keep tabs on policies and ensure that science drives our policies to support birds. We meet with all parties and focus increasing membership and using their energy to help influence law makers.

General Assembly lobby day was focused on clean energy solutions and conservation funding.

House Bill 951: Modernize Energy Solutions for North Carolina. Tasks the NC Utilities Commission to reduce carbon emissions from the power sector by 70% by 2030 and be net zero by 2050. (Written into law.)

State budget for the first time since 2019. In the budget there is \$300,000,000 for the conservation trust funds.

Climate change is the greatest threat to birds. “Survival by Degrees” is an interactive web-based program that can be used to determine the impact of climate change by area or bird type. (Three scenarios: 1.5-, 2- and 3-degree Celsius increase.)

Conserving lands, collective action with lawmakers is critical to supporting and protecting birds. Find your flock of people that will act and talk to lawmakers. The DLC could be a solid partner with the Audubon chapters in helping to advocate with lawmakers.

6. Meeting Adjournment – Gordon Clark,

Short Hike of the Runnymede conserved property led by Clay Furches and enjoyed by all.