

VCC Annual Meeting  
Sunday September 13, 2020  
Draft Minutes

The meeting was lead by Chairman Eric Fitzgerald and Executive Director John Hutchinson  
28 VCC members gathered virtually over Zoom for the meeting.

**3:00 pm - Fitzgerald called the meeting to order**

- Welcome by Fitzgerald
  - Overview of VCC's progress over the past year.
- Hutchinson and Bender presented a report of ongoing easement projects.
  - Staff is currently working on 12 different easements. All easements come with agreements to exclude livestock from streams and create riparian buffers.
- Hutchinson discussed VCC's future plans.
  - We plan to increase our staff with more land protection specialists to step up our easement efforts and respond to the dramatically increased number of requests we've received from property owners.
  - We would like to increase our educational and outreach programming, and would like to hire a staff position to direct these efforts.
  - We have an upcoming board retreat in October to refine our vision and mission for the next 30 years.
- Fitzgerald presented VCC's annual awards.
  - Our Conservators of the Year are the Simmons family of Big Rock Dairy
    - They donated two easements in Augusta County, and are working hard to protect and improve the water quality in their streams.
  - VCC honored our Volunteer of the Year - Faye Cooper
    - Hutchinson recognized countless hours of service and expertise shared with the board and staff this year.
- Board Member Election
  - Hutchinson gave a report for the Nominating Committee, who recommended that we re-elect Eric Fitzgerald to the board of directors.
  - Vice-chair Anna Lawson made the motion, and the membership unanimously approved it.
- Open time for items of discussion, questions from membership.
  - A member suggested partnering with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to use the Sweet Farm to demonstrate upstream conservation.
  - Discussion of upcoming documentary project with JMU students about the Sweet Farm.
- Closing Remarks and appreciations.

**3:50 pm - meeting adjourned**