

MINUTES  
PANTOPS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON MEETING  
December 2, 2024  
Kessler Conference Room, 595 Martha Jefferson Drive

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Dick Ruffin at 6:15 PM

**CAC Members present:**

Stephanie Lowenhaupt, Anne Oliver,, Henry D. Light, Ida Lee Wootten, Michael Spatz, Richard Ruffin, Kate Kaminski, Michael Fraser

**CAC Member absent:** Louis Falzer, Judith Joyce, Megan Nedostup, Dave Norford

A quorum was determined to be present.

**County personnel present:**

Serena Gruia, County Community Engagement  
Bea LaPisto Kirtley, BOS, Rivanna District  
Michael Pruitt, BOS, Scottsville

**Guests:**

**Lisa Witterborn, ED of Rivanna Conservation Alliance (RCA)**  
**Tim Padalino, Manager, AC Parks and Recreation**  
**Jessie Wingo, Natural Resource Specialist, AC Parks and Recreation**

**The Minutes of the meeting of September 23, 2024 were approved.**

**Ms. Witterborn** spoke about a partnership of RCA with the National Fish and Wildlife Federation. The project includes surveys of 134 acres along the Rivanna corridor from DT and Pen Park to Moores Creek. The focus is on removing invasive species and restoring habitat. Their work is especially visible at DT near the boat launch, where many new trees have been planted. The project must be completed by 4/30/2025. Anyone who wishes to volunteer for the monthly workday should go to [www.rivannariver.org](http://www.rivannariver.org)

**Ms. Wingo** spoke of the important progress made earlier this year in removing invasive species, especially Japanese Knotweed. She emphasized the importance of timing in these efforts and reminded everyone that all efforts should be carefully managed by county personnel.

**Mr. Padalino** spoke of the vision for a comprehensive network of trails in Pantops. The priority now is to extend **Old Mills Trail** from Interstate 64 to North Milton. This requires securing appropriate easements, much, but not all, of which has been done. This 3.75 stretch will require 7 bridges and careful laying out of the trail route. The plan includes installing parking and ADA Accessible bathrooms at N. Milton. The support of the Pantops Trail Crew will be greatly appreciated once necessary preparation has been completed by the County. He also gave an update on the Promenade along Free Bridge Lane. There were already about 1800 visitors by November 1 and efforts are being made to assure an accurate count going forward.

The Power Point presentations of Ms. Witterborn and Mr. Padalino are available on the county website.

**Supervisor LaPisto-Kirtley** reported on progress on the rural area section of the draft AC44. She said that VDOT was looking into the accident near the Shops at Riverside on Stony Point Road and was exploring options for safe crossing of Route 20. This might include a sidewalk along Elks Club property.

**Supervisor Pruitt** reported on anticipated budget shortfalls in the coming years, partly due to a necessary expansion of fire department personnel. When federal government subsidies for new hires end, the county assumes responsibility for ongoing payrolls, and these will have serious budget implications. Affordable housing issues also have budget implications, he said. He also spoke briefly about the need to be more strategic in planning for mixed use development in several areas.

There being no committee business, it was announced that the next CAC meeting would be held in person at the Kessler Conference Room at 6:15 on Monday, January 27, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM