



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

September 2, 2015

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Michele Gardner, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Adoption of a Resolution Reducing the Membership of the Fairfax Open Space Committee from Eleven to Nine

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the resolution reducing the membership of the Fairfax Open Space Committee ("FOSC") from eleven to nine.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Coler and FOSC Chairs Michael Ardito and Jack Judkins requested the Council consider this matter. They recommend that FOSC membership be reduced from eleven to nine members, as it has become a challenge to reach a quorum of six out of eleven members for regularly scheduled meetings, due to membership vacancies and absences.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ATTACHMENT

Resolution

RESOLUTION 15-__

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX REDUCING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE FROM ELEVEN TO NINE

Whereas, the Town Council first established the Fairfax Open Space Committee “FOSC”) in 2004 (Resolution 2323) dedicated to the preservation of open space in and around Fairfax with a membership of seven citizens to meet several primary objectives; and

Whereas, the residents of the Town of Fairfax have long cultivated a deep appreciation of the biodiversity and special beauty of their local environment; and,

Whereas, there remain environmentally sensitive lands in the Town of Fairfax that are subject to development pressures which threaten the loss of unique environmental and aesthetic qualities for future generations of residents; and,

Whereas, the residents of Fairfax have long demonstrated a preference to exercise local control and dominion over our remaining open space; and,

Whereas, FOSC has in its purview responsibility to survey the lands within, and adjacent to, the Town of Fairfax in order to determine the availability of unique, threatened, or environmentally sensitive land parcels that may be appropriate to hold in perpetuity as dedicated open space for the public; and,

Whereas, FOSC also has the responsibility for the consideration of long term planning of open space in and near Fairfax, for the generation of community support for the implementation of such and for the fundraising necessary to implement these plans; and,

Whereas, FOSC’s mission is to preserve the visual and environmental values of the Fairfax community through the preservation and acquisition of undeveloped land in and around Fairfax; and,

Whereas, FOSC’s goal is to provide open space as a sanctuary for indigenous flora and fauna for future generations; and,

Whereas, FOSC is an advisory body to the Town Council and its role is to advocate for open space; and,

Whereas, the Town Council increased the FOSC membership to eleven later in 2004 (Resolution 2334); and,

Whereas, the Town Council expanded the citizenship requirements for members (Resolution 10-47) to also allow residents who resided outside of Town limits but within the same zip code (“94930”) to become members of the FOSC; and,

Whereas, the Town Council requires that FOSC elect a Chairperson and such other officers as necessary to run their meetings in accordance with local and state rules of procedure and decorum; and,

Whereas, the FOSC Chair and other elected officers shall serve in their respective officer roles for a minimum of one year terms; and,

Whereas, FOSC shall provide notice of its meetings in accordance with local and state rules; it shall keep minutes of its meetings and such minutes shall be kept on file by the Town as a public record; and,

Whereas, the Town Council twice changed the terms of office of the members (Resolutions 2528 and 12-45) to avoid terms expiring at the same time; and

Whereas, for the past several years there has often been a vacancy on the FOSC; and

Whereas there are currently two vacancies on the FOSC, and having eleven members is no longer practical or desirable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax that the Fairfax Open Space Committee membership shall consist of nine citizens who reside within the 94930 zip code.

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Fairfax Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 2nd day of September 2015, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

BARBARA COLER, Mayor

Attest:

Michele Gardner, Town Clerk