

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ESTABLISHING THE HOUSE MOUNTAIN COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) owns the House Mountain Reserve (hereafter, “the Reserve”), a tract of land located in Rockbridge County ; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 525 of the Acts of 1966, Chapter 18, Title 10.1, Sections 10.1-1800 through 10.1-1804 of the Code of Virginia, declares it to be the public policy of the Commonwealth to encourage preservation of open-space land and authorizes the VOF to hold real property or any estate or interest therein for the purpose of preserving the natural, scenic, historic, scientific, open-space and recreational lands of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors has identified House Mountain as an important area to the citizens of Rockbridge County and has expressed a willingness to participate as a member on a committee concerning House Mountain; and

WHEREAS, the Rockbridge Area Conservation Council (RACC) is a non-profit 501(c)3 community organization founded in 1976 to promote the wise stewardship and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources through education, advocacy, and action in order to protect and enhance the quality of life for present and future inhabitants of Rockbridge County and surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Military Institute (VMI) is an institution of higher education whose Cadets have long used the Reserve for Cadet field training exercises and “Rat Challenge” exercises designed to provide VMI students with leadership opportunities and a vigorous outdoor experiential program; and

WHEREAS, Washington and Lee University (W&L) is an institute of higher education whose students and faculty visit the Reserve for research and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the 1989 agreement involving VOF, RACC, VMI, and W&L to establish the House Mountain Management Plan and the House Mountain Management Committee was retired in 2013; and

WHEREAS, VOF desires that the Rockbridge County community and designated institutions continue to participate in the management planning of the Reserve,

RESOLVED, by the VOF Board of Trustees, this 25th day of June 2015, that the following is approved and adopted:

There shall be created a House Mountain Committee (hereafter, “Committee”) to provide a forum for on-going community input in the use of the Reserve.

The VOF Board of Trustees shall have the final approval authority over recommendations of the Committee. This approval shall be sought at the next meeting of the VOF Board after any meeting of the Committee where any recommendation is made.

The Committee shall consist of seven (7) members: five (5) ex-officio members, and two (2) members appointed by the VOF Board of Trustees. The ex-officio members shall be:

- (1) the Executive Director of VOF, or designee, who shall be the chairperson, and
- (2) the President of RACC, or designee, and
- (3) the President of W&L, or designee, and
- (4) the Superintendent of the VMI, or designee, and
- (5) the Chairman of the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors, or designee,

The two appointed members of the Committee shall be:

- (1) an owner of private land in close vicinity to the Reserve, and
- (2) a person whose scientific expertise, practical skills, and/or knowledge of House Mountain will be of value to the work of the Committee.

In the event that one of the designated institutions is unable to appoint a member to the Committee, VOF will appoint a representative who closely matches the profile of that institution (e.g. a W&L alum).

Ex-officio Members are responsible for serving as liaisons with their respective organizations and keeping them informed.

The two (2) appointed members of the Committee shall be eligible to serve for two full two years terms (a total of 4 years) and cannot succeed him or herself. The ex-officio members are eligible for unlimited terms of service, concurrent with their positions.

The duties of the chairperson shall include organizing regular meetings, providing agendas and minutes for each meeting, and keeping records of the Committee's work, ..

The Committee shall meet at least semi-annually to review the current use of the Reserve and to review any proposals brought to the Committee by any member or the public. In addition, the Committee will hold an annual meeting on or about February 1st of each year which will be specifically to receive input from the public and provide a summary of the past years activities.

The Committee shall conduct itself in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

The Committee shall strive for consensus-based decision making, with all members having equal weight in the decision-making process.

The Committee shall:

- Provide recommendations on the creation and implementation of the House Mountain Reserve Management Plan.
- Provide input on proposals for improvements to the Reserve, research applications, and requests for events of large scale or long duration. Such input will include a recommendation, consideration of any associated project costs, and identifying sources of funds.
- Review materials relating to the Reserve, including, but not limited to, its history, visitor rules, maps and interpretive signage.
- Maintain a network of organizations and individuals having the skills and interests necessary for active volunteer management of the Reserve.

- Identify grants and other funding sources available for Reserve management.
- Report to the VOF Trustees any recommendations made by the Committee and provide an annual report of activities.

The Committee is to advise and provide recommendations on matters to the VOF Board of Trustees on the management and use of the Reserve. As a public entity and the property owner, VOF is exclusively authorized to undertake any and all activities related to the management of the Reserve. The VOF Board of Trustees delegate the routine maintenance of the Reserve to VOF staff.

The House Mountain Committee will operate as described above for a two year period. At the conclusion of this period, modifications may be proposed to the VOF Board by the Committee or any of its members.

Adopted by a vote of ___ in favor and ___ against.

ATTEST: Brett C. Glymph, Executive Director