

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-A.1(1)**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND APPENDIX A.1, ACQUISITION OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS PROGRAM, OF THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE, VIRGINIA**

BE IT ORDAINED By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Albemarle, Virginia, that Appendix A.1, Acquisition of Conservation Easements Program, is hereby amended and reordained as follows:

**By Amending:**

Sec. A.1-108     Ranking criteria.

Sec. A.1-109     Easement terms and conditions.

**Appendix A.1**

**Acquisition of Conservation Easements Program**

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**Sec. A.1-108. Ranking criteria.**

In order to effectuate the purposes of the ACE program, parcels for which conservation easement applications have been received shall be ranked according to the criteria and the point values assigned as provided below. Points shall be prorated and rounded to the first decimal.

*A. Open-space resources.*

1. The parcel adjoins an existing permanent conservation easement, a national, state or local park, or other permanently protected open-space: two (2) points, with one (1) additional point for every five hundred (500) feet of shared boundary; or the parcel is within one-quarter (1/4) mile of, but not adjoining, an existing permanent conservation easement, a national, state or local park, or other permanently protected open-space: two (2) points.

2. Size of the parcel: zero (0) points for parcels of less than fifty (50) acres; one (1) point for parcels of at least fifty (50) acres; one (1) additional point for each fifty (50) acres over fifty (50) acres; one (1) additional point for each fifty (50) acres over two hundred (200) acres.

*B. Threat of conversion to developed use.*

1. The parcel is threatened with forced sale or other hardship: three (3) points.

2. The number of division rights to be eliminated on the parcel: one-half (1/2) point for each division right to be eliminated, which shall be determined by subtracting the number of retained division rights from the number of division rights.

*C. Natural, cultural and scenic resources.*

1. Mountain protection: one (1) point for each fifty (50) acres in the mountain overlay district, as delineated in the comprehensive plan; an additional one (1) point may be awarded for each twenty (20) acres within a ridge area boundary. For purposes of this section, the term "ridge area boundary" means the area that lies within one hundred (100) feet below designated ridgelines shown on county mountain overlay district elevation maps. The deed restriction set forth in section A.1-109(B)(1) shall apply if the parcel is eligible for points under this criterion.

2. Working family farm, including forestry: five (5) points if at least one family member's principal occupation and income (more than half) is farming or foresting the parcel; three (3) points if at least one family member has as a secondary occupation farming or foresting the parcel so that it is eligible for or subject to land use taxation as land devoted to agriculture, horticulture or forest use under Albemarle County Code § 15-800 *et seq.*: one (1) additional point if the parcel is certified as a Virginia Century Farm by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

3. The parcel adjoins a road designated either as a Virginia scenic highway or byway, or as an entrance corridor under section 30.6.2 of Chapter 18 of the Albemarle County Code: two (2) points, with one (1) additional point for each six hundred (600) feet of road frontage if the parcel is subject to a deed restriction as provided herein; otherwise, one (1) point for each one thousand (1000) feet of road frontage; the parcel adjoins a public road: two (2) points, with one (1) additional point for each one thousand (1000) feet of road frontage; or, the parcel is substantially visible from, but is not contiguous to, a public road designated either as a Virginia scenic highway or byway, or as an entrance corridor under section 30.6.2 of Chapter 18 of the Albemarle County Code: two (2) points. The deed restriction set forth in section A.1-109(B)(2) shall apply if the parcel is eligible for points for adjoining a Virginia scenic highway or byway.

4. The parcel contains historic resources: three (3) points if it is within a national or state rural historic district or is subject to a permanent easement protecting a historic resource; two (2) points if the parcel is within the primary Monticello viewshed, as shown on viewshed maps prepared for Monticello and in the possession of the county; two (2) points if the parcel contains a site of archaeological or architectural significance as determined by a qualified archaeologist or architectural historian under the United States Department of Interior's professional qualification standards. The deed restriction set forth in section A.1-109(B)(4)(5) shall apply if the parcel is eligible for points under this criterion.

5. The parcel contains an occurrence listed on the Virginia Natural Heritage Inventory or a qualified biologist submitted documentation of an occurrence of a natural heritage resource to the program administrator and the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage on behalf of the owner: five (5) points.

6. The parcel contains capability class I, II or III soils ("prime soils") for agricultural lands or ordination symbol 1 or 2 for forest land, based on federal natural resources conservation service classifications found in the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Survey of Albemarle County, Virginia: one (1) point for each fifty (50) acres containing such soils to a maximum of five (5) points.

7. The parcel is within the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir Watershed, the Chris Greene Lake Watershed, the Ragged Mountain Reservoir Watershed, or the Totter Creek Reservoir Watershed: three (3) points, ~~or~~

~~8. The parcel adjoins or contains perennial stream(s), as that term is defined in Chapter 17 of the Albemarle County Code the Ivy Creek, Mechums River, Moormans River, Rocky Creek (of the Moormans River), Wards Creek (of the Moormans River), Buck Mountain Creek, South Fork Rivanna River, North Fork Rivanna River, Swift Run (of the North Fork Rivanna River), Lynch River (of the North Fork Rivanna River), Hardware River, Rockfish River, James River, any waters designated as "Exceptional Waters" by the Virginia Water Control Board, any public water supply reservoir or emergency water supply reservoir: one-half (1/2) one (1) point for each one thousand (1000) feet of frontage.~~

~~98.~~ The parcel adjoins or contains a waterway designated as a state scenic river: one-half (1/2) point for each one thousand (1000) feet of frontage. The deed restriction set forth in section A.1-109(B)(3)(4) shall apply if the parcel is eligible for points under this criterion.

~~9. If the owner voluntarily offers in his application to place the parcel in a permanent easement that establishes or maintains buffers adjoining perennial or intermittent streams, as those terms are defined in Chapter 17 of the Albemarle County Code or if the parcel is subject to such an existing permanent easement: one (1) point for each one thousand (1000) linear feet of buffer that is between at least thirty-five (35) and fifty (50) feet wide; one and one-half (1 ½) points for each one thousand (1,000) linear feet of buffer that is at least fifty (50) feet but less than one hundred (100) feet wide; two (2) points for each one thousand (1000) linear feet of buffer that is at least one hundred (100) feet wide.~~

10. The parcel is within a sensitive groundwater recharging area identified in a county-sponsored groundwater study: one (1) point.

11. The parcel is within an agricultural and forestal district: two (2) points.

12. The parcel is subject to a professionally prepared Forestry Stewardship Management Plan approved by the Virginia Department of Forestry: one (1) point.

D. *County fund leveraging.* State, federal or private funding identified to leverage the purchase of the conservation easement: one (1) point for each ten (10) percent of the purchase price for which those funds can be applied.

(Ord. 00-A.1(1), 7-5-00; Ord. 02-A.1(1), 12-11-02; Ord. 04-A.1(1), 10-6-04; Ord. 07-A.1(1), 12-5-07; Ord. 11-A.1(1), 5-4-11)

#### **Sec. A.1-109. Easement terms and conditions.**

Each conservation easement shall conform with the requirements of the Open-Space Land Act of 1966 (Virginia Code § 10.1-1700 *et seq.*) and of this appendix. The deed of easement shall be in a form approved by the county attorney, and shall contain, at a minimum, the following provisions:

A. *Restriction on division.* The parcel shall be restricted from division as follows: (i) if the parcel is less than one hundred (100) acres, it shall not be divided; (ii) if the parcel is one hundred (100) acres or larger but less than two hundred (200) acres, it may be divided into two (2) lots; (iii) if the parcel is two hundred (200) acres or larger, it may be divided into as many lots so as to maintain an average lot size of at least one hundred (100) acres, plus one additional lot for any acres remaining above the required minimum average lot size (*e.g.*, an eight hundred fifty (850) acre parcel may be divided into as many as nine (9) parcels, eight (8) of which maintain an average lot size of at least one hundred (100) acres, and the ninth of which consists of the remaining acres).

B. *Protection of ~~mountain, scenic and historic~~ conservation resources.* The deed of easement shall include the following restrictions if the owner is eligible for points under section A.1-108 for the resources identified therein:

1. *Mountain resources.* If the parcel is eligible for points in the evaluation process under section A.1-108(C)(1) for mountain protection, the deed of easement shall prohibit establishing all primary and accessory structures and other improvements, provided that one or more farm buildings or agricultural structures may be permitted within the mountain overlay district with the prior written approval from each grantee; the deed of easement also shall assure that the parcel is used and maintained in a manner consistent with the comprehensive plan as it pertains to mountain resources and, in particular, the Mountain Design Standards in the Natural Resources and Cultural Assets Component of the comprehensive plan.

2. *Scenic highways and byways.* If the parcel is eligible for points in the evaluation process under section A.1-108(C)(3) for adjoining a Virginia scenic highway or byway, the deed of easement shall ~~require~~ provide that each new dwelling (a) have a two hundred fifty (250) foot setback from the edge

of the right-of-way of the scenic highway or byway or (b) if within two hundred fifty (250) feet of the edge of the right-of-way of the scenic highway or byway, be sited in a location approved by each grantee prior to issuance of a building permit to assure that the dwelling is not visible from the scenic highway or byway at any time of the year.

3. *Stream buffers.* If the parcel is eligible for points in the evaluation process under section A.1-108(C)(7)(8) for ~~being located within a watershed named therein or~~ adjoining or containing a perennial stream(s) named therein, the deed of easement shall ~~require~~ provide for a stream buffer along at least thirty-five (35) feet wide from the top of each bank of any perennial stream, as that term is defined in Chapter 17, Water Protection, of the Albemarle County Code. At a minimum, the deed of easement shall provide that within the stream buffer, there be:

(a) no livestock, except (i) during times of drought or other emergencies, (ii) for stream crossings, or (iii) for watering at limited access points;

(b) no buildings or other substantial structures constructed;

(c) no timber harvest(s); and

(d) no plowing, cultivation, filling, dumping, or other earth-disturbing activity, except as may be reasonably necessary for the limited permitted activities set forth in the deed.

4. *Scenic rivers.* If the parcel is eligible for points in the evaluation process under section A.1-108(C)(8)(9) for ~~adjoining or containing~~ a Virginia scenic river, the deed of easement shall ~~require~~ provide that each new dwelling (a) have a two hundred fifty (250) foot setback from the top of the ~~adjoining~~ subject stream bank or (b) if within two hundred fifty (250) feet of the top of the ~~adjoining~~ subject stream bank, be sited in a location approved by each grantee prior to issuance of a building permit to assure that the dwelling is not visible from the scenic river at any time of the year.

5. *Historic resources.* If the parcel is eligible for points in the evaluation process under section A.1-108(C)(4) for sites of archaeological or architectural significance, the deed of easement shall ~~require~~ provide that no such site shall be razed, demolished or moved until the razing, demolition or moving thereof is approved by each grantee.

~~6. *Voluntary stream buffers.* If the owner voluntarily requested in his application that the parcel be awarded points in the evaluation process under section A.1-108(C)(9) for a voluntary stream buffer, the deed of easement shall require a stream buffer along any perennial or intermittent streams, as those terms are defined in Chapter 17, Water Protection, of the Albemarle County Code.~~

C. *No buy-back option.* The owner shall not have the option to reacquire any property rights relinquished under the conservation easement.

D. *Other restrictions.* The parcel also shall be subject to standard restrictions contained in conservation easements pertaining to uses and activities allowed on the parcel. These standard restrictions shall be delineated in the deed of easement and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, restrictions pertaining to: (i) the accumulation of trash and junk; (ii) the display of billboards, signs and advertisements; (iii) the management of forest resources; (iv) grading, blasting or earth removal; (v) the number and size of primary and secondary dwellings, non-residential outbuildings and farm buildings or structures; (vi) the conduct of industrial or commercial activities on the parcel; and (vii) monitoring of the easement.

E. *Designation of easement holders.* The county and one or more other public bodies, as defined in Virginia Code § 10.1-1700, and designated by the board of supervisors shall be the easement holders of each easement. The public body or bodies who may be designated by the board shall include, but not be

limited to, the Albemarle County Public Recreational Facilities Authority and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

(Ord. 00-A.1(1), 7-5-00; Ord. 02-A.1(1), 12-11-02; Ord. 07-A.1(1), 12-5-07; Ord. 11-A.1(1), 5-4-11)

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I, Claudette K. Borgersen, do hereby certify that the foregoing writing is a true, correct copy of an Ordinance duly adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia, by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, as recorded below, at a regular meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk, Board of County Supervisors

|              | Aye   | Nay   |
|--------------|-------|-------|
| Mr. Dill     | _____ | _____ |
| Mr. Gallaway | _____ | _____ |
| Ms. Mallek   | _____ | _____ |
| Ms. McKeel   | _____ | _____ |
| Ms. Palmer   | _____ | _____ |
| Mr. Randolph | _____ | _____ |