

Minutes of the Friends of Coddington Valley Rail Trail (FCVRT) Meeting, January 24, 2026

Attendance: 23 members of the public
Mark Witmer, Town of Caroline Supervisor
Recording Secretary: Katherine Forrest

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by Lewis Freedman

Agenda:

Organizational structure and means of receiving donated funds as well as grant awards.

Group shared ideas related to structure and funding, including club status vs. 501c3 designation; benefits and burdens of various options were discussed.

Determined that next step is to establish FCVRT as Unincorporated Association.

Lewis Freedman presented initial founding documents and bylaws, attached.

The following officers of the Association were named, via volunteer and unanimous group vote:

Lewis Freedman, Chair

Connie O'Brien, Treasurer

Katherine Forrest, Secretary

Next steps, work party planning and calendar dates of significance.

“Celebrate Trails Day”, a Rails to Trails Conservancy initiative, is April 25, 2026

FCVRT aims to commemorate with a work party and celebration

“National Trails Day”, an American Hiking Society initiative, is June 6, 2026

FCVRT activity in June to be determined.

FCVRT aims to have 7.8 miles of trail corridor walkable within the first year of this initiative.

Website is in progress.

Discussed goal for next work party FEBRUARY 21:

- Begin work on Beaver Creek to Middaugh section
- Group members may begin to “scout” this section but all correspondence with adjoining landowners will be solely within the purview of Supervisor Witmer and Chair Freedman

Discussed possibility of interactive mapping re. points of interest or concern along the trail.

Determined, following discussion of meeting structure, that monthly FCVRT meetings will be held in person at Town of Caroline Town Hall. Hybrid/teleconference option is possible by request to Mark Witmer supervisor@townofcaroline.org

Subgroups - yet to be established - will hold meetings via teleconference (zoom) as per need.

Next Meeting: Saturday, February 7, 2026 10am-12 pm at Caroline Town Hall

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Freedman at 12:05 pm, carried unanimously.

---Meeting Adjourned---

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Forrest