

Board of Directors

Carl Fischer
President

Thomas Karow
Vice-President
& Treasurer

Janet Brown
Secretary

Stephanie Heintz

Stacy B. Lloyd III

Forrest Morgan

Margaret Jones
Perritt

Elizabeth Wood Santini

John Singleton

Pattie Sobieski

Marilyn South



Fairfield, as represented
in an 1847 plat.

Staff

David A. Brown, Ph.D.
Director

Thane H. Harpole
Director

Anna Hayden
Staff Archaeologist

The Fairfield Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. Its mission is to promote and involve the public in hands-on archaeology, preservation, and education activities within Virginia's Middle Peninsula and surrounding areas.



January 27, 2015

To whom it may concern:

It is our honor and pleasure to recommend Off-Grid-By-Design. This innovative, family-oriented company worked with our organization to bring solar power to the Center for Archaeology, Preservation and Education in 2014. With grant funding from Dominion Virginia Power, The Fairfield Foundation worked alongside owner Charles Bush and his team to select and install a 5kw system on the roof of our future headquarters. This 1930s building was originally a Texaco service station and is a notable landmark on Main Street in Gloucester County. Now, what was once perhaps the least energy efficient building in our downtown will become one of its most efficient—something we could not have accomplished without the significant assistance of Off-Grid-By-Design.

From the first meeting with Charles, through our tours of his establishment near Richmond, and pleasant conversations with his wife Lori, who manages the business, and his son and other employees who help with installation, it was clear that this company was the right choice for us. Our vision to become a role model for solar power use in our community was their vision as well. They knew that by utilizing our flat roof, which is a character-defining feature of our historic building, we could capture the maximum exposure from the sun. And by utilizing the most current models for solar power available in Virginia, we would maximize our investment and hopefully produce sufficient energy to reduce our monthly bills to near zero. And despite the small size of our array, Charles and his company were very supportive of our application to Dominion's Solar Purchase Program, and now Dominion pays us each month, purchasing our excess power for others to use.

Beyond his company's dedication to energy self-sufficiency and independence, what impressed us most was their commitment to science and education. Charles and his team do more than simply sell and install solar panels. They are frequently involved in school programs across Virginia, sharing their passion for understanding the science behind solar power and the benefits it can bring to our society. Our own organization shares this passion for education, and was grateful for the sensitivity Off-Grid-By-Design showed in respecting our building's historic character, and for their patience working with us and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to ensure that this amazing addition to our building would not detract from the historic character of this National Register of Historic Places-listed property.

Sincerely,


David Brown
Co-Director


Thane Harpole
Co-Director

P. O. Box 157 White Marsh, Virginia 23183 (804) 815-4467
www.fairfieldfoundation.org Email: fairfield@fairfieldfoundation.org