

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2018
Northside Library, 705 Rio Road W, Charlottesville, VA

President Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Janet Pawlukiewicz, 1st Vice President
Sally Anderson, 2nd Vice President
Kathleen Stasulis, Treasurer
Betty Truax, Recording Secretary
Roxanne Paul, Membership Chair
John Hayden, Botany Chair
Laura Beaty, Horticulture Chair
Mark Murphy, Co-Web Administrator
Ruth Douglas, Director at Large, Invasive Plant Education
Joyce Wenger, Director at Large, Research Grants
Johnny Townsend, Director at Large
Steve Stasulis, South Hampton Roads Chapter President
Jan Smith, Upper James River Chapter President
Phyllis Fevrier, Upper James River
Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson Chapter President
Mary Rhoades, New River Chapter President
Ellen Holtman, Blue Ridge Wildflower Society President
Karen Hendershot, Piedmont Chapter President

Phoning into the meeting:

Peggy Troyer, Fundraising Chair
Caitie Cyrus, Co-Web Administrator

Also in attendance was Donna Murphy

Announcements/ Agenda Changes

- None

Minutes of the March Meeting

- The minutes of the last meeting were accepted without objection. (No vote)

Treasurer's Report

- Kathleen reported 33K was sent to Natural Heritage making it appear that we have a negative balance however, the numbers are affected by last year's expenditures.
- Kathleen and Karen are still working on the workshop costs being reported in the correct places in the budget.
- IRS Form 990 – VNPS has a group exemption which covers all the chapters however each chapter must file independently. A status can be revoked if the chapter does not file for 3 consecutive years. To reinstate status, fees are charged. The Executive Committee recommends that VNPS at the state level provide help to chapters that are out of compliance.
- Ellen Holtman moved that VNPS at the state level will expend \$275.00 to reinstate one chapter's status. Sally Anderson seconded. Passed unanimously with no further discussions. All other chapters are up to date with their status.

- VNPS's official year end is 12/31 and ½ of our chapters have made this change. The other chapters need to do so by filing a letter to the IRS. Either fax or mail the letter, but don't do both.

2017 Fundraiser Status & 2018 Fundraiser

- 2017-\$33K was sent to Natural Heritage. The remainder of the approximately \$35K will be sent during a "large check" presentation to the Governor.
- 2018-This year's fundraiser will be to provide funding for the Flora of Virginia updates. Bland Crowder is also applying for grants for the updates. No decision has been made regarding another hard copy Flora; however the changes would be tracked electronically. Peggy Troyer and Bland will provide a letter for the fall fundraiser campaign.
- Peggy Troyer discussed making donations to VNPS for people who need to take required minimum distributions from their retirement vehicles. Kathleen can provide the Tax ID number for the charitable contribution tax credit. She is open to hearing ideas and/or advice regarding fundraising.

DuPont-Waynesboro Settlement Grant Status, Mount Joy Ponds NAP

- We have had some setbacks regarding efforts to acquire land in Augusta County for Mount Joy Ponds Natural Area Preserve with the DuPont grant. Landowners who expressed interest last fall have changed their minds. We may pursue some adjoining land not expressly requested in our grant application, including property purchased by Richard Cooper and Sally Anderson in anticipation of selling to Natural Heritage through another grant(). Rob Evans of Natural Heritage is following up with the DuPont grant administrators to determine the process and authority to make revisions.
- Steve Stasulis moved to give the Executive Committee the authority to negotiate and make decisions regarding the parcels of land for the DuPont grant and Mt. Joy Area Preserve, seconded by Roxanne Paul. Passed unanimously with no further discussions.

Nominations Committee (positions expiring in 2018)

- Nancy Vehrs has agreed to run for another term as President. John Hayden has agreed to run for another term as Botany Chair.
- Roxanne Paul will step down as Membership Chair but has offered to provide help and training to the new chair.
- The Conservation Chair (current term expires in 2020) is still vacant. It is urgent that we find a replacement. Please notify Sally Anderson or Nancy Vehrs if you know of any possible candidates. Janet and Karen will speak to Sally off-line regarding a former EPA person that might be a possibility.
- It is unknown if Bland Crowder will continue as Publications Chair. There was some discussions if this should be combined with Facebook/Website since paper is becoming less and less used.
- Publicity Chair (current term ends in 2019) is still open.
- Mark and Caitie will continue for another term as Co-Web Administrators.

Newsletter Editor Position

- Nancy Vehrs informed the board of Nancy Sorrells' desire to resign from the position of Newsletter editor. She believes that Nancy S. may be convinced to stay if necessary.
- If Nancy S. does resign an ad will need to be published in *Sempervirens*.

- Janet Pawlukiewicz suggested a workshop (small group of people) reviewing the VNPS publications. She suggests hiring a facilitator and holding the workshop during the annual meeting weekend. If anyone is interested please contact Janet at janetjed@gmail.com.

Annual Meeting Update

- Caitie reported that the chapter is currently working on setting up field trips and reminded everyone that there will not be a central hotel; everyone will be responsible for booking their own.

Field Trips

- The SW trip is coming up and is full. The Smokies trip went well.
- Peggy Troyer and Janet Pawlukiewicz are currently planning a trip for March of 2019 to Texas Hill Country. The maximum people count for this trip will be 15 due to bus restrictions.
- Sally Anderson is setting up a June 2019 trip to Bruce Peninsula in Ontario, Canada which should be an "orchid mecca" that time of year.
- Johnny Townsend mentioned that Difficult Creek in Halifax County is really amazing in the beginning of June (and again in the fall). This was not proposed a field trip; just for informational purposes.

Annual Workshop

- We have had a waiting list for our popular Winter Workshop and are looking for venues that will hold 200+. Sally reported that she has an abundance of ideas for the 2019 workshop but always welcomes more.
- In consideration are University of Richmond's concert hall as well as the auditorium at Piedmont Community College in Charlottesville or the Science Museum in Richmond.

Content for Website

- Mark requested that field photographs with short notes be submitted for inclusion on our facebook/website. He will be requesting input via email.

Additional Information

- Nancy Vehrs mentioned that the Fredericksburg Chapter may be called Central Rappahannock when it re-establishes.
- Nancy also mentioned a person is interested in being a point person for the re-establishment of the Shenandoah Chapter.

Next BOD meeting: Friday, September 14th at 3:00 p.m. in Williamsburg

Adjourn: 2:58 p.m.