

Virginia Native Plant Society
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
December 1, 2018
Richmond, Virginia

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by President Nancy Vehrs. Directors introduced themselves for the benefit of those calling in. The following were present for all or part of the meeting.

Sally Anderson	Cathy Mayes
Laura Beaty	Donna Murphy,
Caitie Cyrus	guest
Ruth Douglas	Mark Murphy
Mary Lee Epps	Janet Pawlukiewicz
Alex Fisher	Jan Smith*
Cathy Flanagan	Kathleen Stasulis
John Hayden	John Townsend
Karen Hendershot	Peggy Troyer
Ellen Holtman*	Joyce Wenger
Kevin Howe	*by phone

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the meeting of the board of directors on October 5, 2018, were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

Kathleen distributed financial statements for the period ending October 31st. The loss on the annual meeting is less than the statements show because we have received fees of \$1,500 from William and Mary for students who attended. We are pleased the loss is so small considering the fact that it had to be rescheduled on short notice.

Mark has been updating the *Guidestar* listing for VNPS. We qualify for Bronze status. Mark will put the bronze plaque logo on the Web site. Caitie will put the logo on our Facebook page. Mark will also upload photos and information to make our listing more attractive. Members are requested to send appropriate material to Mark.

Kathleen and Nancy encouraged members to participate in Amazon's Smile program for the VNPS. Kathleen told chapter presidents that in order for chapters to receive donations through Amazon's Smile program, if they are not already participating, they have to create an account on the site. Otherwise, donations will be retained by Amazon.

Fundraisers:

Nancy has not yet secured a date for the ceremonial check presentation to the state for the funds raised for Natural Heritage, but expects it will happen this month. The major contributors will be invited to attend. This was the most successful campaign the Society has ever conducted.

The letter launching the 2018 fundraiser has been sent. Our goal is a more modest \$25,000 for the support of the *Flora*. To date, \$8,892 has been donated.

2019 Annual Meeting:

Piedmont Chapter has gotten commitments for evening speakers and several hike leaders. T'ai Roulston, Curator and Research Associate Professor at the state arboretum, will be the Friday keynote speaker and Woody Bousquet, professor of environmental studies and biology at Shenandoah University, will be the Saturday night speaker. The committee has sketched out about 30 hikes and workshops so far. Again, the meeting will be September 27-29 in Front Royal.

Communications Workshop:

Immediately following this meeting Janet will lead a workshop to explore how we can make the Society more inclusive and more effective. Fifteen people have signed up to participate.

Sale of *Plant Virginia Natives* books:

We will be offering 3 or 4 of the *Plant Virginia Natives* books on the Web site. The NoVA Natives book is already for sale for \$8.50 on our website. We will add the Piedmont Natives edition for \$10 plus postage and handling. The Northern Neck and Southeast editions will be free except for postage and handling. A Richmond edition is in the works. Since this program was funded in large part by the Department of Environmental Quality's Coastal Zone Management Program grant from NOAA and Southwest Virginia is outside the Chesapeake Bay watershed, another source of funding will need to be found if we are to publish a Southwest edition.

2019 Field Trips:

The March trip to Texas is sold out, but Janet and Peggy are determining whether it can be expanded to include a few more people.

Sally has not finalized arrangements for the June trip to the Bruce Peninsula in Ontario, but a save-the-date notice is in the next edition of the newsletter. The date is June 2-9.

Board Vacancies:

Bland Crowder agreed to continue as Publicity Chair for another year. Nancy nominated him and the board unanimously voted to appoint him to the position for 2019. He wants to finish work he has begun on a style manual and other projects.

The Executive Committee proposed that we nominate Alex Fisher as Conservation Chair.

Elk Management Plan:

There was an extended discussion of the draft Elk Management Plan released for comment by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The comment period ends in 4 days and the draft plan is 138 pages long. Since VNPS was not identified by DGIF as an interested party, no one in our group had time to study the issues. We agreed that we cannot do a reasonable job analyzing the draft in the remaining comment period, but we want to express our concern that it does not adequately address the impact of elk herds (in the absence of predators) on native plant communities. Kevin offered to draft the comment for Nancy's signature.

Cyber security:

Nearly all of us have received email messages that purport to come from Nancy but don't. These are spoofing messages and we need to be cautious in responding to them. You can tell they don't actually come from Nancy (or any other person) by looking at the email address that is behind her name. It is likely the names are being picked up from our Web site.

2019 Meeting Schedule:

Nancy distributed the 2019 schedule of board and Executive Committee meetings. Executive Committee meeting dates are set by Doodle poll, and anyone interested in attending should let Nancy know. The June board meeting will be held later this year so it doesn't conflict with the trip to Bruce Peninsula. In some cases, meeting locations cannot be tied down until closer to the date.

Other Business:

Mark has an electronic version of Helen Hamilton's book on ferns and is formatting it for smart phones and tablets. There was discussion about reprinting it and selling it. Helen does not want to undertake that herself.

Chapters were reminded to send plant sale information to both Mark and Caitie at webmaster@vnps.org to get it on the Web and Facebook.

Alex reported briefly on the meeting of Virginia Conservation Network which he attended this morning. The main purpose was to present the VCN agenda for the upcoming legislative session and to talk about how to lobby for their causes. There is a page in the agenda relating to native plants.

Alex Fisher accepted our nomination to be Conservation Chair for a three-year term beginning today. The nomination was approved by a unanimous vote of the board.

Next Meeting:

The Board of Directors will meet next on Saturday, March 9, following the workshop at Piedmont Community College in Charlottesville.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Cathy Mayes for
Betty Truax, Secretary.