

VNPS Board Meeting, June 3, 2017
Ivy Creek Education Center
Charlottesville, VA

Present:

Sally Anderson, Sue Dingwell, Ruth Douglas, Mary Jane Epps, Nick Ferriter, Phyllis Fevrier, , Alan Ford, Mary Jane Epps, John Hayden, Ellen Holtman, Kevin Howe, Jim Hurley, Chris Ludwig, Maria Mayen, Roxanne Paul, Mary Rhoades, Jan Smith, Kathleen Stasulis, Steve Stasulis, Johnny Townsend, Nancy Vehrs

President Nancy Vehrs announced that the VNPS was honored recently with a request for permission to include our quarterly, *Sempervirens*, in the Biodiversity Heritage Library collection. The Board was pleased to learn of this public recognition of the high quality of our publication.

Chris Ludwig, Chief Biologist of the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, presented a talk entitled "*Natural Area Preserves Resiliency Analysis*" in which he explained the importance of building out Virginia's Natural Area Preserves. The decision of the NHP is that increasing the footprint of the current protected lands is the single most effective way to preserve and protect the floral and faunal heritage of our state. {Copy of talk included with record of minutes}

Minutes of the last meeting were read.

Motion to approve by Alan Ford

Seconded by Steve Stasulis

Treasurer reports were sent in advance by office manager.

Motion by Sally Anderson to increase the budget by \$1000 to cover cost of plant guide books, \$1000 - \$900; and license fees, \$100. Revenue is up \$1000 for merchandise sales.

Seconded by Shirley Gay

Passed unanimously

The switch to NeonCRM software is now complete; full implementation for member's use is targeted for July 1st.

Registration for our Annual Meeting, the Tri-State Native Plant Conference is now open.

The Shenandoah chapter, now defunct, is waiting for a check to clear. They intend to donate a portion of their remaining funds to VNPS and to preserve \$1,500 for the start up of a re-formation of their chapter, should one occur. Nancy has put together a program and membership drive to be held in their area on June 20th, with Mary Jane Epps as speaker.

Kathleen Stasulis has agreed to be our new treasurer

The Board was requested by President to submit nominations for service on State Board in time for inclusion in next issue of Sempervirens.

2017 Fundraiser

Motion by Alan Ford: That the VNPS Fundraiser 2017 be targeted for land acquisition through the Natural Heritage Program, with specific location(s) to be selected by the VNPS Executive Committee based on critical species or plant communities.

Seconded by Roxanne Paul.

Passed unanimously.

Invasive species report from Ruth Douglas indicated that wavyleaf grass is now in Lake Anna, and continuing to spread. We need to be on the watch. EAB, (Emerald Ash Borer), is in more than half of the VA counties, and is now present in Albermarle Co. John Townsend noted that Blue Ash, (Square Twig), seems to be immune; more study needed.

Next Board mtg will be on September 9 in Kilmarnock, at the Rappahannock Community College; a plan is being developed for remote access.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Dingwell,
Substitute Secretary