

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting
September 27, 2019
Holiday Inn Blue Ridge Shadows
111 Hospitality Drive, Front Royal
Draft Minutes

President Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Sally Anderson, 2nd Vice President
Kathleen Stasulis, Treasurer
Betty Truax, Recording Secretary
Peggy Troyer, Fundraising Chair
Laura Beaty, Horticulture Chair
Mark Murphy, Co-Web Administrator
Joyce Wenger, Director at Large, Grants
Ruth Douglas, Director at Large, Invasive Plant Education
Jan Smith, Upper James River Chapter President
Peggy Dyson-Cobb, Upper James River Chapter Vice President
Karen Hendershot, Piedmont Chapter President
Brenda Graff, New River Chapter President
Leslie Allanson, Pocahontas Chapter President
Nick Ferriter, Northern Neck Chapter Representative
Steve Stasulis, South Hampton Roads President
Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson Chapter President

Also in attendance were Mary Rhoades (New River Chapter member/past president), Dick Hall-Sizemore (Pocahontas member), Phyllis Fevrier (Upper James River Chapter member) and Jim Hurley (on candidate slate for election).

Announcements/Changes

- Introduction of John Hurley (candidate for election as Co-At-Large Director for Invasive Plant Educator)
- Alex Fisher, candidate for Conservation Chair, was not in attendance. He and his wife have a new baby girl.

Mary Pockman, Past VNPS President

- Nancy spoke of the passing of Mary Pockman who was the second person to serve as VNPS President. She was a force early on in the Virginia Native Plant Society. After discussion on what VNPS would do to commemorate her, Peggy moved to name a VNPS Grant after her. Sally seconded and it passed unanimously.

Minutes of the June Board Meeting

- Correction to Ginny Yacovissi's name. Kathleen made a motion to accept the June 15, 2019, board minutes. Steve seconded and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Budget
 - Proposed budget includes a raise for Office Manager.
 - Mark added some additional money for Website support.
 - Kathleen explained the category for donations for Field Trips is deleted because it's not actually a donation and the cost is now incorporated into the cost of the trip.
 - The net income number change is due to the DuPont grant we received in 2018. The property acquired through the grant was donated in 2019.

- Certificate of Deposit (CD) monies for grants will show as a loss starting this year.
- Ruth moved to recommend the budget to the membership for adoption. Peggy seconded and it was passed unanimously.
- Online Accounting System
 - We will be moving to Quickbooks online. It is a cloud based system allowing for multiple viewers. Costs are \$70 monthly (\$420 for the first 2 years which is ½ price).

Dupont-Waynesboro Settlement Status, Mount Joy Ponds NAP

- The VNPS Executive Committee recommended VNPS close out the grant. After discussion, Karen Hendershot moved that the board accept the recommendation and close out the Dupont-Waynesboro Settlement Grant. Steve Stasulis seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous vote.

2019 Fundraiser

- Nancy announced the 2019 fundraiser. This year VNPS will raise money to support regional Native Plant Guides to include “seed money” for new projects in areas without a gardening guide and reprints for existing guides as needed.

2019 Annual Meeting

- 140 registered and 28 activities
- Nancy introduced the slate of candidates and discussed their qualifications to be presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Board Vacancies and 2019 Nominating Committee (term expiration in parentheses)

- The following position will be voted on at the annual meeting
 - Kevin Howe, 1st Vice President (2022)
 - Open, Director at Large, Grants (2020)
 - Open, Membership Chair (2021)
 - Open, Publications Chair (2021)
 - Ruth Douglas and Jim Hurley, Director at Large, Invasives / co-chairs (2022)
 - John Townsend, Director at Large, Natural Heritage (2022)
 - Alex Fisher, Conservation Chair (2020), is currently serving a one year board appt.

Annual Meeting 2020

- The Board of Directors will host the 2020 Annual Meeting. It will be held in Abingdon, Virginia on September 25-27. This is an area of our state where VNPS does not currently have a chapter.

Field Trips

- Being considered: Great Smoky Mountains and Longleaf Pines.
- Nancy asked for suggestions.

Annual Workshop 2020

- Meeting will be held at the Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) on March 14, 2020, in Charlottesville.
- Topic: Climate Change (A historical look at plants)

Presentation of Highlights of Reports from Chapters, Committee Chairs, Directors at Large

- Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson Chapter, objected to charging a non-profit (Blue Ridge Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) organization \$200 for a table at the Annual Meeting. The decision was a chapter decision to off-set costs. After discussions Leslie moved to have VNPS refund \$100 to Blue Ridge PRISM. Mary Lee Epps seconded. Discussions resulted in a substitute motion by Nick to refund 100%. Laura seconded the motion. The substitute motion

failed. Vote on the original main motion passed with all but two voting “aye.” Leslie moved to also refund \$100 to the Shenandoah National Park Trust. Nick seconded the motion but it failed with only two voting aye.

- Nancy informed the board that Prince William Wildflower Society will be hosting Doug Tallamy at its annual Author Event in February (last Sunday). His new book will be out earlier in the month.
- Ruth Douglas is representing Blue Ridge PRISM at a table at this weekend’s event. There are informative fact sheets available. PRISM wants to expand into other parts of Virginia.

Next BOD meeting: Saturday, December 7, 2019, in Richmond

Adjourn: 4:45 p.m.