

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting
June 4, 2016
Ivy Creek Natural Area, Charlottesville, VA

President, Nancy Vehrs, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Cathy Mayes, Treasurer
Betty Truax, Recording Secretary
Leslie Allanson, Pocahontas Chapter President
Sue Dingwell, Director at Large, Website
Ruth Douglas, Director at Large, Invasive Plant Education
Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson Chapter President
John Hayden, Botany Chair
Roxanne Paul, Membership Chair
Mary Rhoades, New River Chapter President
Joyce Wenger, Publicity Chair
Ellen Holtman, Blue Ridge Chapter Representative
Katherine Smith, Upper James River Chapter President

Announcements

-Nancy encouraged all chapters to replenish their supplies of brochures.
-Alan Ford has been nominated for the Cox Conserves Heroes award and Nancy encouraged all members to go on-line and vote for him.

New Member of Board

-Sue moved to appoint Betty Truax as Recording Secretary, Mary R. seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Nancy will send a card to Sherrie thanking her for her contributions as recording secretary.

Minutes of the March Meeting

-Cathy moved to accept the minutes as amended, Joyce seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

-Cathy reported that the numbers for April – May are not complete or available yet.

Research Grants

-2016 Grants - Discussions regarding why there were only 4 applications this year and what to do about it. Cathy reported that there wasn't a consensus on her committee about moving forward. Proposal 1: Advertise that we are looking for student research grants. Proposal 2: Conscribe Bland Crowder to create a poster advertising our grants.
-2015 Grants - Cathy extended Formal Report due dates until the end of summer per a recipient's request.
-2017 Grants - Cathy moved "For the 2017 awards, we advertise that we encourage applications from students and see if that will be sufficient to generate student interest, and then instruct the award committee to try to fund at least one student application. But, we should leave it to the award committee to judge whether any of the student applications is worth of funding, and if none are, to be free to award funds to another non-student application." It was seconded by Katherine and the motion was opened to discussion. It was decided that Labor Day would be the deadline to get the information out. Motion passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting

- Mary reported they are looking for someone to serve beer/wine at the meeting this fall but aside for some minor issues everything looks good.

Sempervirens

-Allow for an "Electronic Only" newsletter request.
-Printed copy will be in color (the cost is not prohibitive).
-Nancy mentioned that foraging has become a hot topic on social media and suggested an article be written for the newsletter; she will find someone with knowledge of the subject to write an article.

Membership Committee

-Roxanne reported that the committee is working to determine what they want the electronic system to be able to do. They will poll membership chairs and presidents with each chapter to determine requirements.
- Roxanne emailed report to BOD, there is possible interest in a new possible chapter being formed in SW Virginia.

Publicity

-Joyce reported nothing new at this time.

Botany

- John sent report to BOD.

Invasive Plant Education

- Ruth reported there is a noxious weeds advisory committee on the state level and she is a member.
-Nancy has signed off on the PRISM agreement formally committing VNPS.
-Mary Lee reported placing plants in jars with a 3x5 card, with details about the plant, for education purposes has been well received. Mary Lee will email samples to board members for their information.

Website/Social Media

- Sue reported adding Facebook links to partnerships. Report was sent to BOD.

Upper James River Chapter

-Katherine stated a report was not sent to BOD. The chapter has a project at Boxerwood. Although the original installer used some non-natives, the chapter has convinced Boxerwood to replace lirope with a native sedge.
-Katherine moved "That VNPS consider creating a list of up to 6 native plants not readily available in the trade and work with a nursery to grow out and sell commercially." The motion was seconded by Ruth and passed unanimously. Nancy will assign Horticulture Chair John Magee and ask him to report in September.

Blue Ridge Chapter

-Ellen reported that Lou Greiner forwarded report to BOD.

Jefferson Chapter

-Mary Lee spoke of Mo Stevens' recent passing. The Jefferson Chapter has been asked to review digitalization of his work.

New River Chapter

Mary said a report was sent to BOD.

Pocahontas Chapter

Leslie said a report was sent to BOD.

Prince William Chapter

Nancy said a report was sent to BOD as well as reported that due to a contribution they own a copy of Hometown Habitat DVD and can schedule a screening.

Misc.

-Sue to send out email to membership encouraging them to vote for Alan Ford (Cox award)

-Katherine would like plant lists from each chapter of the plants they have sold at their plant sales.

-Thanks to those who provided refreshments: Nancy (blueberry buckle), Jefferson Chapter members Mary Lou and Ruth (veggies/dip, humus, chocolate chip cookies and ice tea).

Next BOD meeting: **3 p.m. Friday, September 9**, Blacksburg (annual meeting weekend)

Adjourn: 2:08 p.m.