

**Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting**  
**December 3, 2020**  
**Via Zoom**

President, Nancy Vehrs, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Kathy O'Shea – Membership Chair	Johnny Townsend, Dir. At Large Natural Heritage
Peggy Troyer, Fundraising Chair	Kevin Howe, First Vice President
Mark Murphy, Website Admin	Laura Beaty, Horticulture Chair
Sally Anderson, Second Vice President	Ashley Moulton, Publicity Chair Elect
Betty Truax, Recording Secretary	Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson President
Jim Hurley, Co-Chair Invasive Species Education	Kathleen Stasulis, Treasurer
Steve Stasulis, South Hampton Roads President	Jan Smith, Upper James River President
Emily Southgate, Piedmont President	John Hayden, Botany Chair
Ruth Douglas, Co-Chair Invasive Species Education	Virginia Witmer, Publications Chair nominee
Alan Ford, Potowmack, President	Cathy Flanagan, John Clayton Representative
Joey Thompson, Education Chair	Rod Simmons, Registry Co-chair
Alex Fisher, Conservation Chair	Judy Dority, Facebook Group Admin
Brenda Graff, New River, President	Susan Gitlin, Facebook Group Admin
Jessica Fleming, Blue Ridge Wildflower, President	

**Announcements/Introductions/Additions**

- Introduction of Virginia Witmer.
- Rob Evans' mother passed away yesterday. (Rob is on the staff of Virginia Natural Heritage.)

**Approval of June Meeting Minutes** – The minutes we accepted by all.

**Appointment of Virginia Witmer, Publications Chair (term ending October 31, 2021).** Mary Lee moved to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation. Steve seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Kathleen reported that dues are up 14% over last year. However, everything else is down.
- Kathleen requests chapters send their year-end reports to her as well as their 990N or 990EZ.
- Insurance – Our insurance currently covers liability for state members and volunteers. (\$1 million max). Non-members are covered for medical expenses up to \$10k (more than that would involve a lawsuit). It would be good to collect contact information for non-member participants. Discussions to accept Executive committee's suggestion regarding covering officers and directors for personal suits. Kathleen moved to accept. Emily seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Status of 2020 Fundraiser (Flora of Virginia)**

- We have collected over 50% to date. Nancy thanked the donors.
- The media team is putting out 2 different ads in mid-January. One is Keep Flora Alive and the other is Fight Plant Blindness.

**Zoom Presentation by Chris Ludwig on Conservation Infrastructure**

Joey stated that Chris is suggesting Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for 45 minutes. Mark will add a donate box on the website. Jefferson Chapter has a conflict with the monthly meeting so it may be

rescheduled. Chris's presentation will be recorded. Nancy said that as soon as a date is selected begin publicizing this educational program.

### **2021 Workshop on Climate Change**

The workshop will be virtual (zoom) transpiring over 2 days (2 hours each). Sally is planning for early March. Joey will contact the speakers to work out dates and times.

### **2021 Field Trips and Annual Meeting**

After discussions it was decided it is too early to make plans due to Covid issues.

### **Native Plant Cultivars Report**

John Hayden provided information that was extremely informative. The committee asked John to join them, and he agreed. Peggy moved to send the report back to the committee to continue for more work. Kathy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Virginia, Rod, and Jessica also joined the committee.

### **Proposed State Legislation**

A study committee has formed to come up with legislation to submit to the General Assembly on controlling invasives.

### **Highlights of Reports from Chapters, Committee Chairs, and Directors-at-Large**

- Johnny – Natural Heritage has acquired a small parcel of land on a significant bird migratory route.
- VNPS 2021 Research Grant program has been announced (Jan 1 – Mar 1). Nancy suggested it be announced on social media.
- Noxious weed list is being comprised. Go to DCR Virginia Natural Heritage Noxious Weed Tool to submit entries.
- Members we've lost: Cathy Mayes, Jay Shaner, Pat Willis

Next BOD meeting: March 2021 (day to be decided via Doodle Poll)

Adjourn: 9:00 p.m.