

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting
June 9, 2021
Via Zoom

President Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Kevin Howe, First Vice President	Johnny Townsend, Dir. At Large Natural Heritage
Peggy Troyer, Fundraising Chair	Marilyn Lerch, Blue Ridge Wildflower, Rep.
Mark Murphy, Website Admin	Laura Beaty, Horticulture Chair
Kathleen Stasulis, Treasurer	Ashley Moulton, Publicity Chair
Betty Truax, Recording Secretary	Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson President
Jim Hurley, Co-Chair Invasive Species Education	Kathleen O'Shea, Membership Chair
Steve Stasulis, South Hampton Roads President	Matt Brooks, Pocahontas President
Emily Southgate, Piedmont President	John Hayden, Botany Chair
Ruth Douglas, Co-Chair Invasive Species Education	Virginia Witmer, Publications Chair
Alan Ford, Potowmack, President	Jan Smith, Upper James River, President
Joey Thompson, Education Chair	Alex Fisher, Conservation Chair

Announcements/Introductions/Additions

Brief Introductions were made for the benefit of new BoD members.

Approval of March Meeting Minutes – Peggy moved to accepted the minutes as circulated. Steve seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Kathleen reported VNPS membership is up. She mentioned during Covid people are in their gardens more.
- Our expenses are on target. A \$28,546 check was sent in January for the flora but was collected in November/December 2020.
- Tax returns are now due in November.
- In July, Kathleen will be working on the VNPS budget. She requested people email her with any additions and/or changes. She explained we have budgets for conferences etc. if people are representing VNPS.
- The board unanimously accepted the Treasurer's Report.

2021 Annual Meeting

The virtual event will be held September 17-18. Nancy continues to look for a speaker (or two). Chapters might consider adding walks on the 18th to provide an in-person element. There was some discussion of having in-person meetings that were also available virtually. Mark explained it is hard to support both options at the same time.

Members discussed if chapters should be considering in person meetings and it was decided chapters would make their own decisions.

Official Confirmation of Research Grant Recipients

24 BoD members voted online. Alan Ford moved to confirm the online vote which supported the acceptance of two grants (An Assessment of Native Grasslands of the Central Virginia Piedmont, Center for Urban Habitats, Devin Floyd for \$14,750, and Wing-Mediated Pollination in Azaleas (*Rhododendron* spp.) and Lilies (*Lilium* spp.), Mary Baldwin University, Mary Jane Epps for \$6,958), be accepted. Steve seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Checks will be issued very soon. Kathleen S. pointed out Federal ID numbers need to be added to the form.

State Invasive Species Working Group

This group met today (June 9) from 10:00-12:00 with 65-70 people online. Mostly conservationists spoke during the meeting. Industry representatives were largely silent. Discussions included what the laws and regulations are regarding invasive species. Public comment time blocks will be set aside in meetings. The next meeting will be held on July 14 from 10:00-12:00 (hosted on VirginiaTown Hall). Virginia will provide data on retailers that are not members of VNLA to Nancy/Jim. Nancy will be our alternate, representing VNPS at meetings.

OnLine Privacy Policy

Mark (on behalf of the Exec. Committee) spoke to the board regarding why we need to consider a privacy policy for our online presence. The laws in Virginia are changing. Although VNPS would probably be exempt, it was decided we needed a policy anyway. Discussed hiring a lawyer since it would be a legal document. Members talked about attempting to obtain a lawyer pro bono. Mark has an initial draft of a policy already done and he will provide a copy to board members as a starting point.

Expiring Board Positions in 2021/Succession

Nancy is willing to continue as President. John Hayden is willing to serve as Botany Chair. Peggy Troyer is willing to remain as Fundraising Chair but would like to retire after a year. Laura Beaty is willing to serve another term as Horticulture Chair. Kathleen O'Shea is willing to continue as Membership Chair. Virginia Witmer who has been serving a partial term as Publications Chair will continue for a first term. Mark Murphy is willing to continue as Web Administration Chair.

Kathleen O. would like to create a board position, Diversity / Inclusivity Chair. Alan suggested the position should be part of the Executive Committee. Emily moved to create a Diversity/Inclusivity Chair position on the Executive Committee. After discussions Kevin seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Kathleen will head up an Ad Hoc committee defining the position to present to the board with support from Matt, Joey, and Alex.

***Sempervirens* Schedule**

Reminder to Kevin about getting grant winners to provide short articles regarding their grant projects.

2022 Annual Workshop

Joey is planning a geology and substrates theme with possibly Tony Fleming, Gary Fleming, Wendy Cass, Ann Witt, and Dwayne Estees as speakers. Betty confirmed the PVCC auditorium in Charlottesville is reserved if the decision is to meet in person.

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

- DCR is looking for a property in SW Virginia for possible acquisition.

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

Adjourn: 8:50 p.m.