

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting
September 12, 2022
Zoom Meeting

In attendance:

Nancy Vehrs, President
Kevin Howe, 1st VP
Sally Anderson, 2nd VP
Kathleen Stasulis, Treasurer
Mark Murphy, Website Admin
Betty Truax, Secretary
Barbara Ryan, Conservation Chair
Johnny Townsend, DAL Natural Heritage
John Hayden, Botany Chair
Laura Beaty, Horticulture Chair
Jim Hurley, Invasive Species Education
Melody Mobly, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair
Pat Quinn, South Hampton Roads
Joey Thompson, Education
Matt Brooks, Pocahontas
Mary Rhoades, New River
Jan Smith, Upper James River
Alan Ford, Potowmack
Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson
Peggy Troyer, Fundraising
Lucille Kosodo, John Clayton
Virginia Witmer, Publications Chair
Anna Maria Johnson, Plant VA Natives Campaign for Ridge & Valley
Ashley Moulton, Publicity Chair
Rod Simmons, Plant Site Registry Co-chair
Kathleen O'Shea, Membership Chair

Nancy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Introductions/Announcements/Agenda Changes/Additions

Kathleen announced our 2021 federal tax return has been filed. If any of the chapters need help regarding charitable audits (from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services-DACS) email Kathleen with questions.

Approval of June BOD Minutes

Kathleen moved to accept the June minutes. Peggy seconded it and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Included in the budget:

- \$300 added to support the new formed DEI committee
- Raise for Karen York (will not go into effect until July 1, 2023)

Discussed whether fundraising numbers should be split up or remain under one category.

Nancy discussed redoing The Flora of Virginia checklist booklet fundraiser. Her idea is a joint effort partnering with The Flora of Virginia organization to issue a “redo” to include spiral binding, more room for notes among other updates. Sally brought the suggestion up with the Flora’s education committee who expressed interest. \$3,000 will be added to the budget as a placeholder for expenditures for this fundraiser.

Sally moved to accept the VNPS 2023 budget as discussed. Peggy Troyer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of reinstatement of the Shenandoah Chapter

Interest in reinstatement started with a request for a local native plant guide. A request was sent for previous members to help which resulted in 40 members and 200 more people on a mailing list. Kathleen worked with Anna Maria to fill out all the required paperwork with the state.

Lucille moved to approve the reinstatement of the Shenandoah chapter. Peggy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Our membership brochure will require updating. Discussed creating some stickers for temporary use.

Investment Policy Recommendations

Discussed making the ad hoc Finance Committee becoming permanent. Mark posted a draft of the proposal online.

After discussions Mark moved to accept the draft proposal. Mary seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Barbara, Mark, Kevin, Kathleen and Nancy expressed a willingness to serve on the committee.

Update on state legislation regarding invasive plants

Several members met with Delegate David Bulova. Although nothing has changed in the VA House of Delegates, Delegate Bulova wants to try again to move forward with invasive plant legislation. Nancy noted if nothing else it will keep the subject in the forefront.

In 2021 Maryland passed legislation that HOAs cannot prohibit pollinator or rain gardens.

One of the VNPS Facebook administrators started an online petition to ask Home Depot to discontinue sales of invasive plants in Virginia. We discussed if VNPS wanted to support this as a group or only as individuals. Jim moved for VNPS as an organization would endorse the petition. Kevin seconded the motion and it passed via majority vote with 12 votes for, 13 votes abstaining and 0 votes against.

2022 Annual VNPS Fundraiser

The fundraiser this year will be buying mineral rights on Shenandoah Mountain via Virginia Wilderness Committee to protect lands owned by the Forest Service. Sally provided information to the board on what is involved. The goal will be to raise at least \$50K.

DEI Committee

A Zoom meeting is scheduled for Sept. 27th at 7p.m. Melody is asking for a name and phone number for a representative of each chapter to join this committee.

Flora Checklists

Discussed during the Treasurer's Report.

2022 Annual Meeting (40 years)

Being held this Saturday in person. Kevin will introduce our guest speaker, Devin Floyd from Center for Urban Habitats. Field trips are scheduled for the afternoon. Wear an old VNPS t-shirt if you have one. Karen will be bringing the swag as well as items for sale.

Commemorative items for 40th Anniversary

Stickers will be available; however the 40th Anniversary t-shirts will not be available in time for the annual meeting.

Highlights from Chapters/Committees

None

Adjourn: 9:01 p.m.

Next BOD Meeting: December (date and time to be determined) Zoom