

**Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting
9 January 2023
Zoom Meeting**

In attendance:

Nancy Vehrs, President
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 Mobley, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair
Pat Quinn, South Hampton Roads
Joey Thompson, Education
Matt Brooks, Pocahontas
Laurie Dodd, Facebook Group Admin
Jan Smith, Upper James River
Jennifer McCarthy, Blue Ridge
Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson
Ruth Douglas, Invasive Species Education
Lucile Kosodo, John Clayton
Virginia Witmer, Publications Chair
Anna Maria Johnson, Shenandoah
Ashley Moulton, Publicity Chair
Mitzi Fox, Piedmont
Kathleen O'Shea, Membership Chair
Tom Smith, Volunteer State Lobbyist - Guest

Nancy called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Introductions/Announcements/Agenda Changes/Additions

Karen York bonus
Grants notice

Approval of June BOD Minutes

Lucile moved to accept the June minutes. Barbara seconded it and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Membership dues are 23% over budget, an increase of 7% from last year.
- Annual fundraiser is a little less than last year to date.
- We netted an income of \$4,352 from the workshop and annual meeting. The loss under fundraising in Kathleen's report is not a real loss. It is because of timing issue due to fiscal year end.
- Reminder that all chapters need to file form 1099N with the IRS.
- Anna Maria moved to give Karen York a \$200 bonus. Mary Lee seconded it and it passed unanimously.

2022 Annual VNPS Fundraiser

To date we have collected \$44,062.97 minus \$2424.67 in expenses for a total of \$41,638.40 in support of purchasing mineral rights for Shenandoah Mountain. The campaign will run through 1/31/2023.

Investment Policy Update

Nothing to report.

Update on state legislation regarding invasive plants

The bills still need to be submitted. Invasive Species Bill: need a lead to communicate with Virginia Conservation Network (VCN). Contact delegates to keep bringing attention to the bills.

DEI(J) Committee

- A question as raised asking why the (J) was being considered.
- Melody added a video online explaining each of the letters in DEI(J). She will also include explanations in a follow up package of information.
- Kathy Sink to be added to committee emails.
- Still working on getting organized as a committee. Everyone is welcome to join.
- Currently meetings are set for the last Thursday of every month however, South Hampton meets on the fourth Thursday. Possible it could change to last Wednesday instead.

Flora Checklists

At a standstill since the Flora doesn't have an executive director yet. Sally announced the position has been filled. We have funds in the budget allocated.

2022 Annual Meeting (40 years)

- Meeting went well; site staff was very cooperative and the weather was beautiful.
- Date has not been chosen for 2023. Possibly in October (noting there are 5 Saturdays in September to consider).

Workshop 2023

- Tentative dates for ZOOM workshop (Tuesday March 7, 7-9pm and Tuesday, March 14, 7-9pm)
- Speakers line up:
 - Scott Ward, Research Botanist, NC Botanical Gardens
 - Lilly Byrd, Botanist, Florida Native Plant Society
 - Justin Thomas, Director and Botanist, NatureCITE
 - Rod Simmons/Joey Thompson to report on recent findings in VA

Membership Brochure

- Needs to be updated to add Shenandoah Chapter. Kathleen O'Shea will be taking the lead on this project with help from Melody, Karen and Virginia.
- Discussions involved changing dues and lifetime memberships. Also discussed if chapters receive a percentage from lifetime memberships (which they do with the same percentage split).

VNPS Swag

Swag series of 4 pins (fundraiser) are for sale on the VNPS website for \$50. Question arose regarding a student discount.

VNPS 2023 Wildflower of the Year (WOY)

- Hollow Joe-pye-weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*) is the 2023 VNPS WOY.
- John has completed the write up for the WOY brochure. It's in proofreading with Nancy Sorrells.
- Discussed if we would produce t-shirts and if would we open it up to another artist competition. Ashley will send out email detailing the rules of the competition.

Chapter/Committee Highlights

Grant Program: Mark announced grant information can now be found on the website. Applications are being accepted through 3/1/2023.

Adjourn: 9:03 p.m.

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