

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting
8 August 2023
Zoom Meeting

In attendance:

Nancy Vehrs, President
Kevin Howe, 1st Vice President
Sally Anderson, 2nd VP
Kathleen Stasulis, Treasurer
Mark Murphy, Website Admin
Betty Truax, Secretary
Peggy Troyer, Fundraising Chair
Barbara Ryan, Conservation Chair
John Hayden, Botany Chair
Laura Beaty, Horticulture Chair
Johnny Townsend, Director at Large Natural Heritage
Jim Hurley, Invasive Species Education
Melody Starya Mobley, DEIJ Chair
Joe Villari, Director at Large
Pat Quinn, South Hampton Roads
Peggy Dyson-Cobb, Upper James River
Jan Smith, Upper James River
Nicole Hersh, New River
Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson
Carol Carter, Jefferson
Jennifer McCarthy, Blue Ridge Wildflower
Cathy Flanagan, John Clayton
Emilia Godwin, John Clayton
Virginia Witmer, Publications Chair
Anna Maria Johnson, Shenandoah
Kathleen O'Shea, Membership Chair
Alan Ford, Potowmack
Betsy Washington, Northern Neck
Anna Finch, Secretary Nominee
Melissa Korzuch, Treasurer Nominee

Nancy called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Introductions/Announcements/Agenda Changes/Additions

- Blue Ridge PRISM Announcement
- HOA Bill
- VNPS Member, Jocelyn Sladen passed away recently

Approval of March BOD Minutes

Jennifer moved to accept the March minutes. Sally seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Membership numbers and donations continue to rise.
- Anyone wanting money for their chapter/committee should notify Kathleen so she can add it to the budget to be approved at the 2023 Annual Meeting.
- Research Grants are under budget. Budget has been increased to 20K.
- Federal form 990EZ has been filed electronically. The DACS report will be filed later this month.

DEIJ Committee:

Melody to send out the committee's "Vision and Mission Statement" (two statements for BOD review for feedback at our next meeting).

Nominating Committee:

- Still looking for a new Fundraising chair
- Nominating Anna Finch, Secretary and Mellissa Korzuch, Treasurer
- Barbara (Conservation), Laura (Horticulture), Sally (2nd VP) as well as Rod and Charles (Registry) have agreed to continue in their roles.

VNPS Membership Brochure

- Current supplies of Membership Brochures are running low.
- The committee has received and incorporated comments.
- Melody to provide DEIJ comments.
- Committee has not yet decided how the application form will be included.
- Requesting VNPS diversity photos.
- The BOD gave unanimous consent for the committee to move forward.

2023 Annual Meeting: Being held in Gloucester, Virginia on Oct. 6-8. The Virginia Institute of Marine Science has meeting space but no space for meals. Working on finalizing details.

2024 Annual Meeting: Discussed getting more support from chapters who have more intimate knowledge of their areas. Requested ideas for next year.

Flora Checklists: Nancy met with the Flora Board's new director, Jenny Norwood regarding the joint checklist project.

Field Trips (statewide): Looking for ideas and/or an organizer

Tech/Website Updates:

Happening on our website since our meeting last March:

- Three new blogs posts were published
- Over 100 VNPS and chapter events were created, edited, and published

Numbers are up:

- Facebook and Instagram followers
- Merchandise sales
- Website views
- Memberships (including auto-renews)

Chapter/Committee Highlights:

- Alan Ford announced Potowmack Chapter had a very successful season selling native plants this year.

- There is a lot happening at Blandy. Karen is filling out many orders recently (over 1,000 items).
- Anna Maria announced that the Shenandoah Chapter is purchasing boulders to protect rare trilliums that have been discovered. The chapter plans to continue fundraising to buy more boulders and/or divert trails.
- Blue Ridge Prism Announcement: Joe Villari signed off before making his announcement.
- Proposed HOA Bill: Homeowner right to install low impact landscaping such as raingardens in community associations. This is similar to Maryland (House Bill 322, signed in 2021). Anna Maria moved that VNPS will support this legislation and it was seconded by Melody and passed unanimously.

Adjourn: 9:00 p.m.

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