

Virginia Native Plant Society
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting
July 1, 2021

The meeting was conducted via Zoom with the assistance of Mark Murphy in keeping with the best practices during the Covid outbreak. Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Alan Ford, president. Other Board members present were

Laura Beaty, Margaret Chatham, David Gorsline, Scott Knudsen, Donna Murphy, Mark Murphy. Invited guests included

Nelson DeBarros, Susan Crawford, Judy Dority, and Patrick Siren.

Treasurer's Report:

Using an online spreadsheet, Scott Kundsens compared 2019 and 2020 budgets to the current budget, high this time of year

thanks to profitable plant sales this season. Costs attributed to our sponsored interns at Huntley Meadows Park and Green Springs Garden. A thousand Plant Nova Natives Guides sold; profits close to \$8,000.

Membership Report:

David Gorsline reported that through Neon System, membership actuals for chapter are 570 and 2,245 members Statewide.

Plant Sales/Propagation Report:

Laura Beaty reported that higher sales can be credited to the incredible work of the volunteers who have been very diligent in

potting seedlings and plants, organizing holding beds and watering the plants. Our intern Angela Pitsakis has been a big help this

summer with watering potted plants on our off-days during this drier than usual season.

Plant Rescues:

Alan reported one active rescue near Rt. 123 in Fairfax City called NorthFax West. Rescues began in Oct. 2020 working with the City of Fairfax. Nearly 80 on the list of interested participants were notified, but in actuality usually 5 or 6 regularly show up to rescue plants. Many great plants have been rescued. Project received approval from FX County and site manager. Work is extended month by month; rescues will continue into July. One session each weekend hosted by a board member.

Grass Walks:

Alan and Margaret Chatham led a walk last week at Wakefield Park on Tuesday morning. There's interest in more such walks, perhaps continue to go into the field Tuesday mornings at 3 other parks; River Bend Pk on Potomac, Runnymede PK in Herndon and are considering a walk at Dyke Marsh in late Fall when marsh plants are blooming and hold walk in honor of Pat Salamone—who was involved with Friends of Dyke Marsh. Holding a Grass Bunch walk Fri. at 10am, July 9 at Huntley Meadows Friday with David Lawler and others, including Carla Jamir. Judy Dority is invited to join walk. Everyone is welcome to join walk, but it should not be advertised—designed for those prepared to do field ID; it is not a regular guided walk.

Green Springs Operating Agreement:

Pk manager, Nicole Mitchell has moved to a new park without completion of agreement between park and Potowmack Chap. Document is currently in legal review with Park Authority. Operating agreement - MOU - memorandum of understanding - document outlines responsibilities of each party. Needs to be finalized.

Vacancy in Exec. Comte. for Secretary:

Has responsibilities associated with it - search will continue; it needs to be filled - it's an elected position that also serves on Ex. Comte.

New Business:

Chapter has been out of compliance with VA State office that monitors activities of non-profit organizations for 3 or 4 years. Chapter can't ask for donations or fund-raising opportunities; this does not include dues. Need verifiable set of financial statement for 3 fiscal years to rectify situation. Scott offered information on documents he's preparing and expects to have ready by end of August.

Green Springs Garden Fall Garden Day Sept. 25:

Alan encourages board members to attend the sale for some of the time between the hours of 9 - 3pm - a busy day.

Will continue our First Wed. of the Month Sales which are averaging about \$600. Patrick asks about advertising for plant sales;

Alan and Mark responded.

Fall and Summer Talks and Walks:

Donna said Rod Simmons is giving a talk on Trees in conjunction with Plant NOVA Natives' Tree campaign and Astro Latto (?) is giving program on "Leaf Litter Larva". September meeting is Glen Tobin talking about plant communities.

Issue of Zoom or face-to-face? Remote allows for a non-driving meeting but counts as a loss for some who don't like Zoom or can't work it technically and prefer to gather.

Thoughts of making Sept and Oct. programs virtual and a face-to-face for annual meeting. Date for Nov. meeting was settled on Nov 14. Alan will schedule meeting for Green Springs from 1 to 4. Social hour, board elections then speaker.

Other Walks this season:

Alan and Margaret hoping to host grass walks during remainder of season. Other plans might be Fraser.

Suggested that

Dyke Marsh might be better to visit in August. Highlights need for new program chair to get more people into nature. Members

who provide walks, like, Rod Simmons, Charles Smith and Alonzo Abugattas are willing to help if board can get organized and

pull dates together—re-affirming the need for a program chair.

Potential Board Positions:

Guests asked about their interests in joining the board. Judy indicated an interest in education. Patrick interested in social media coordination and expand network to reach into different audiences, community building with conservation issues, etc. Heidi interested in tabling events.

Alan: time to get back involved with tabling events which will require the re-ordering of some brochures and books .

Scott announced: Northern Alex. Native Plant Sale will be October 2.

Alan asked if visitors attending board meeting had any interest in joining the board or serving in an at-large or other position. Mark made a motion that the board appoint the following people to serve in at-large positions, if willing to serve until the end of calendar year 2021; re-election would be needed to continue on the board. Judy, Patrick, Heidi and Nelson agreed to at-large positions. Vote called and motion passed.

Question by David regarding annual budget figures required before annual meeting; Alan offered an alternative to ensuring that the budget will be ready on time.

Good of the Order:

David with a mystery plant ID - found at Blandy in May - shared photo - determined to be a sedum, but exact specie not determined, but entertaining discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm. Next meeting scheduled for September 2, 2021 at 7:00.

Submitted by Laura Beaty, sitting in for a real Secretary.