

Virginia Native Plant Society
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting
September 2, 2021

Opening and Attendance

The meeting was conducted via Zoom with the assistance of Mark Murphy, Vice President in keeping with the best practices during the Covid outbreak.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Alan Ford, Chapter President

Other members in attendance:

Mark Murphy, Vice President
Scott Knudsen, Treasurer
Laura Beaty, Propagation / Plant Sales Committee Chair
Margaret Chatham, Newsletter Committee Chair
David Gorsline, Membership Committee Chair
Donna Murphy, Member at Large
Patrick Siren, Secretary

Pre-meeting Appointments:

Nelson DeBarros accepts the post as Botany Committee Chair

Next Board Meeting

The board approved the next board meeting date as Nov 4th, 7pm

Chair Reports

Treasurer

Scott Knudsen reports that donations and dues are tracking as usual and sales are over \$7k, exceeding their usual amounts. We have utilized our budget efficiently to provide internships through our partners at Greenspring Gardens, worked with our members and affiliates to host 8 speaking events and 6 walking events, and support various board initiatives.

Membership

David Gorsline reports that membership is up, the updated member list has been provided to the executive committee and matches Scott's reporting.

David reports 573 active Potowmack chapter members vs 2276 active State organization members. David notes that this number doesn't just represent the replacement of members who

have chosen not to renew and that the report seems to indicate that Chapter Membership is, in fact, on the rise.

Propagation

Laura Beaty reports that enthusiasm for Propagation Team volunteering is at an all-time high with unofficial hours being counted into the thousands. Laura also continues to praise the efforts of volunteers for both the health and vibrancy of our specimens but the continued success of the First Wednesday sales.

Plant rescue will continue through the end of the summer season. Mr. Phil Acosta will be available to oversee the rescue for member-volunteers who are interested in participating. Hours for the rescue are available upon request, please contact the Chapter President for more information.

The VNPS Potowmack chapter is excited to work with Greenspring's new Site Manager, Judy Zatzick, and we anticipate that ongoing discussions regarding our operating agreement at the chapter's prog beds will proceed again shortly and smoothly.

There are apparent opportunities to better utilize groups IO as a resource for email subscription and communication among volunteers, Mark Murphy to investigate.

New Business

Budget

First Wednesday Plant Sales:

Laura reports that members attending the FW Plant Sales have begun offering donations by way of rounding up their totals. Scott suggests we track these amounts, informally while we determine an official method for ac

Note: We do not currently give receipts at the sales unless requested. It will be difficult for us to track these donations.

The chapter is anticipating some post-covid Summer excitement leading, optimistically, to a bump in summer sale revenue. Alan predicts that Fall and Spring sales will likely match previous years.

Plant Nova Natives guides

As of this meeting the chapter records over \$12k in sales relating to the Plant Nova Natives guides. The board reviewed the cost and printing logistics and voted to begin preparing the PNN guide report in full detail for the November meeting. It is noted that a substantial amount of the revenue brought in by guide sales will likely be required for the fifth printing

Printing logistics

We are commissioning with a printer to print and ship the guides to us. They're printed in bulk for price-copy benefit. It should be noted that the VNPS Potowmack Chapter is the owner of the guides/repository of the text, meaning that we continue to enjoy full control of vendors, publishing, and publishing options for the guide.

A note on Printing vs. Edition:

We are **Printing** the **3rd Edition**

Currently **editing** the **4th Edition**

Which will be the **5th Printing** of our guide.

Louden planting for wildlife book

At Alan's recommendation, the board voted to purchase 100 additional copies of the Loudon Planting for Wildlife book at a maximum of \$500.00

Other Budget Adjustments

The board voted not to raise projected revenues to \$12k while also voting to raise the Member Dues budget to \$5.5k. The board discussed the budget for the printing of the newsletter but did not bring a motion to alter the draft proposal, noting that the budget already considers the vagaries of print cost. Scott proposed, with the approval of the board, that the additional income from the increase in membership dues and membership growth be used for special projects.

Budget Proposal

With the previous matters closed the board recognized that the Budget had been amended, and voted to approve the budget proposal.

Fall plant sale

Laura reports that communications regarding the upcoming annual Fall Plant Sale have been slow to come in from our partners at Greenspring, though signs point to preparations being under way.

A reminder that the Sale will be open from from 9-3, Saturday September 25th, with volunteers expected to arrive around 8

Northern Virginia Plant Sale

Scott is hosting the Northern Virginia Native Plant Sale was; was September 25th, now Oct 2nd

Annual Meeting

The Board voted that the executive committee shall investigate the logistics of holding the annual meeting given current COVID-19 practices and recommend whether the meeting shall be hosted in person or via zoom.

The board reminds all of its members that we will be voting on new officers at the Annual Meeting. The fact of the open elections will be especially noted in the program announcement.

Other: VDACS Solicitation Application Status

Scott reports that with the help of the Executive Committee, the chapter's VDACS *Form 100* and supporting documentation was submitted prior to meeting. Completing this process will allow the chapter to solicit donations directly, actions including but not limited to returning the donations button to the chapter's website. The application's status is listed as pending.

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Meeting adjourned