

Virginia Native Plant Society
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting
November 3, 2022

The meeting was held via Zoom Video Conference and was called to order at approximately 7:00pm by President Alan Ford. Board members present were Laura Beaty, Jen Brown, Margaret Chatham, Margaret Fisher, David Gorsline, Scott Knudsen, Donna Murhpy, Mark Murhpy and Suzette Risacher. Also present member Sharada Gilkey.

Minutes

The meeting minutes from the September 1, 2022 board meeting were approved.

Next Meeting

The next board meeting was scheduled for January 5, 2023 at 7pm via Zoom Video Conference.

Member Forum

New member Sharada Gilkey introduced herself. She has started a new organization called Urban Wildflowers (urbanwildflowers.org/) focusing on working with other community organizations and VDOT on planting wildflowers in roadway medians, with the goals of improving the environment and mental health.

Treasurer's Report

Scott provided an updated budget spreadsheet. He noted that the plant sales have exceeded budgeted expectations, bringing in 22,000 versus the 18,000 budgeted. Expenses are a little under budget.

Membership

David emailed the most recent Membership Activity report to the Executive Committee. He noted that the Potowmack Chapter has 677 members, up from the 660 members reported at the last meeting. The state organization has 2586 members. The chapter has also received three donations since the last meeting.

Propagation

Laura remarked on the success of this year's plant sales and all of the volunteer hours put in to make it a successful year. She is compiling the total volunteer hours for the organization and will also give the report to Green Spring Gardens. She noted that there is interest in growing from seeds. The organization might consider selling or giving seeds away in small packets.

Plant Nova Natives

Alan reported that about 40% of the June print run of Plant Nova Natives have sold. The chapter will also sell the guide during the annual meeting.

Board Discussion

The status of the memorandum of understanding with Green Spring is still pending. Alan reported that the agreement is with Fairfax County's legal department.

Annual Meeting Planning

The meeting starts at 1:00pm. Board members will arrive at 12:30pm for setup. Alan will provide the annual report. Laura will announce the flower of the year and talk about the plant beds. Donna will introduce Suzette, the new Program chair. And Suzette will introduce the speaker.

David will handle the sign up sheet and name tags. Scott and Suzette will cover the resource table for book and guide sales. Donna and several other board members will provide refreshments.

Since the speaker cannot accept an honorarium, the organization will present the speaker with one of Margaret Chatham's calendars, along with a thank you letter offering to donate the amount of the honorarium to an organization of his choice.

New 2023 Internships and Scholarship Awards

After much discussion on the new awards, it was decided that the subcommittee would reconvene to determine how the funds should be used and to identify a partner organization.

Plant Walks

Alan noted that he wanted to reassert a yearly walk schedule and hopes to have a sense of a yearly calendar of walks by the January meeting. He asked to let him know of any ideas for walk leaders or areas for walks.

Suzette suggested two local organizations that might be a good source for walk leaders: Ancestral Knowledge (<https://www.ancestralknowledge.org/>) and Natural Leaders (<https://www.naturalleaders.com/>).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25pm.

Submitted by Jen Brown