

**Virginia Native Plant Society**  
**Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting**  
**March 2, 2023**

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, Maryam Dedkhah (Potowmack member), Nelson DeBarros, Margaret Fisher, Scott Knudsen, Donna Murphy and Mark Murphy.

**Minutes**

The meeting minutes from the January 5, 2023 board meeting were approved with the corrections supplied by Margaret Chatham and Alan.

**Next Meeting**

The next board meeting was scheduled for May 4, 2023 at 7pm via Zoom Video Conference.

**Treasurer's Report**

Scott reported that he has paid all items due from January 1<sup>st</sup>, except the February sales tax and the room fees to Green Spring for the annual meeting and the Charles Smith talk.

**Membership**

David emailed the most recent Membership Activity report to the Executive Committee. Alan said the last monthly membership check was \$850.00. The largest the organization has ever received.

**Propagation**

Laura reported that the Propagation Group will get started in mid-March, with work days scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>. She is expecting to receive 250 ferns that will need potting up. The first plant sale will be on April 5<sup>th</sup>. She will send out a notice to the propagation volunteers with the dates.

**Plant Rescue**

Alan reported that Katy Johnson, who wrote the excellent article on the Winter Solstice Walk for the winter newsletter, is leading a plant rescue in Fairfax City. Alan provided her with the plant rescue volunteers email list and she will send out an email to that group about the plant rescue.

**Old Business**

The Potowmack chapter sent a \$1,000 check to VNPS for the Protect Shenandoah Mountain Fund. In total VNPS raised \$50,000 to protect the areas around Shenandoah Mountain

Alan reported that he has a message out to Green Spring concerning the Memorandum of Understanding.

Alan provided an update on the Site Registry for the proposed Long Branch acidic seepage wetlands in Franconia, noting that it is a matter of going through the VNPS process. Rod Simmons is handling the proposal.

Alan has a message out to Eric Hottenstein regarding artwork for the Potowmack donation thank you cards. He hasn't heard back yet.

Scholarship committee will meet to discuss the scholarship program, with a target of providing scholarships for the 2024 academic year.

## **New Business**

### **Newington Conservation Area/Cinder Bed Rd Project**

The board approved two measures regarding the request for sponsorship/funding for community outreach in the Newington Conservation Area/Amberleigh HOA/Cinder Bed Rd Project. There was some concern since the Potowmack organization is an education and awareness group, not an advocacy group. Therefore VNPS Potowmack wants to review any outreach material to ensure they fit the organization's mission.

1. That VNPS Potowmack permits the use of our logo and name on literature regarding the natural resources of the Amberleigh HOA property; invitations to walks or talks where the natural resources are a significant part of the content. VNPS Potowmack wants to be able to review and approve the literature prior to distribution. This was approved with one abstention.
2. That VNPS Potowmack authorizes up to \$200 for costs associated with advertising and preparing for events meeting the above criteria. This was approved with one abstention.

The Board also approved allowing the Executive Committee approve the outreach material.

### **Upcoming Events**

Alan reported that the Thompson WMA walk with Alonzo Abugottas is set for April 22. Alan is working on obtaining the needed Virginia DWR permit. He also said that he would reach out to Rod Simmons about a walk at Dora Kelley.

Margaret Chatham said she will reach out to Kit Sheffield about a summer fern walk. She also mentioned that Charles Smith was scheduled to lead a walk at the WMA west of the Manassas Battlefield that was canceled due to the pandemic. Alan said he would reach out to Charles to see if he would be willing to do this walk.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:07 pm.