

**Virginia Native Plant Society
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting
1 March 2018**

The meeting was held at the George Mason Regional Library in Annandale. It was called to order at 7:35 P.M. by Alan Ford, president. Board members present were Dean Arkema, Laura Beaty, Margaret Chatham, David Gorsline, Scott Knudsen, Donna Murphy, and Patricia Salamone. The board also welcomed Mark Murphy, who has agreed to join the board as our technical chair.

MINUTES

No minutes from the 4 January 2018 board meeting were available for review.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Scott distributed a summary of our year-to-date income and expenses compared to the budgeted amounts and to previous years' totals. He reported his findings that we did not pay Green Spring for our sponsored intern there in 2017 and that we have not paid our promised contribution to the Larry Morse fund¹ for some time either. The board agreed that we should make good on these expenditures. [*Which Scott has since done.*] The board briefly discussed the free VNPS memberships we agreed last fall to give to our speakers and interns and how these should be classified in the budget. Scott encouraged anyone who has a question to contact him and he can provide more detailed information.

Regarding one long-standing budget item (the \$1,000 budgeted for removal of the Norway maple overhanging our planting beds at Green Spring), Alan reported that he has met with the new Green Spring director about the planned tree removal.

Regarding the propagation budget, it was noted that we need a new propagation bench, but this may be done by a volunteer, and that we may at some point have to repair or replace the shed roof, which is overgrown with trumpet vine.

MEMBERSHIP

David reported that he has sent some information about our long-time members to Dean, who is working on a history of the chapter, and periodic membership reports to the executive committee.

NEWSLETTER

The board briefly discussed various issues related to electronic distribution of the newsletter, including posting it on the state VNPS website. Several chapters are having problems with this and the issue is being worked at the state level. Alan would like to be able to post individual stories from the newsletter to Facebook one article at a time; the web experts will discuss how this could be done. He also noted that although Sue Dingwell has continued to help with our social media outlets, she will not be able to continue in that role indefinitely, so we need to find more people to help in this area, including someone to manage the Facebook page.

PROGRAMS

Dean discussed plans for upcoming walks and asked the board for ideas for future walks. Suggestions included Scotts Run, Balls Bluff, Thompson Reserve, Banshee Reeks, and Hemlock Overlook. The board agreed to cosponsor the Friends of Dyke Marsh's 9 May program at Huntley Meadows Park, at

¹ In 2013 we agreed to donate \$200/year for five years.

which Dr. Leslie Reis of Georgetown University will talk about her research on how butterflies are responding to climate change. The board discussed the date for the chapter annual meeting and decided on 4 November. The planned dates for fall program meetings are 6 September and 11 October, and the state annual meeting will be held on 14-16 September in Williamsburg.

NEW BUSINESS

Alan informed the board of a Kickstarter initiative by Sarah Chamberlain of Penn State, to support publication of a new guide to mid-Atlantic grasses that she has written. (For more information about this, see [Field Guide to Grasses of the Mid-Atlantic by Sarah Chamberlain — Kickstarter](#).) Under that initiative, for a donation of \$1,200 she will lead a one-day grass identification workshop for 12 people. Under the auspices of the Grass Bunch, Alan and Margaret fronted the money to do this; the intention is to break even on the program by charging \$100 per person. Alan suggested that we pay for our two interns to attend this workshop; David made a motion, which Laura seconded, and the motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The board meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for 3 May 2018 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia P. Salamone, Secretary