

**Virginia Native Plant Society
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting
10 March 2020**

The meeting was held at the George Mason Library in Annandale. It was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Alan Ford, president. Board members attending (either in person or via Zoom) were Dean Arkema, Laura Beaty, Margaret Chatham, Margaret Fisher, David Gorsline, Scott Knudsen, Donna Murphy, Mark Murphy, Michael Reinemer, and Patricia Salamone.

MINUTES

The minutes from the 14 January 2020 board meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Alan raised the question of how the chapter should respond to the fast-developing COVID-19 pandemic; this was the main topic of the board meeting. After some discussion, Mark moved that we postpone or cancel the program meeting scheduled for 12 March; Pat seconded the proposal and it was approved with nine “yes” votes and one “no” vote. Alan’s proposal that the board delegate future decisions regarding event postponements/cancellations to the Executive Committee was approved by a unanimous voice vote. The board considered allowing walks to continue for the time being (because of their smaller numbers of participants and outdoor venue) but also recognized that in such a volatile situation we must be open to change. (The decision was later made to discontinue walks as well). The board also agreed to look into the possibility of holding electronic meetings in the future.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The board agreed to change the reporting period from the end of the month to an earlier date (say, the 15th) to allow Scott enough time to pull together his reports for our first Thursday board meetings.

Alan and Scott continue to work on putting in place a process to clearly track and manage the income and expenses associated with the Plant NOVA Natives Guide printing project.

In future budgets, Scott will separate out walks and programs (currently combined under one line item).

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Alan proposed that we transition to using groups.io as the primary means of board communications; Scott seconded the proposal and it was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

MEMBERSHIP

David reported that he is working with other chapters to see whether they will accept electronic delivery of their complimentary copies of the Potowmack Chapter newsletter.

OTHER

The board decided on 15 November as the planned date for the chapter annual meeting. In addition, the board discussed the idea of holding another tristate meeting in a couple of years and possibly separating the business meeting from the conference itself (walks, talks, and social events). Alan is talking with Nancy Vehrs and Karen Molines about this.

ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The board meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 P.M. The next meeting (electronic) will be on 7 May 2020 at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia P. Salamone, Secretary