

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2017

Kilmarnock Library, Northern Neck

President, Nancy Vehrs, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., with the following in attendance:

Nick Ferriter, Northern Neck Chapter, 1st Vice President
Sally Anderson, 2nd Vice President / Piedmont Chapter President
Roxanne Paul, Membership Chair
Betty Truax, Recording Secretary
Kevin Howe, Northern Neck Chapter President
Cathy Mayes, Treasurer
Rob Evans, Natural Heritage Program
Kathleen Stasulis, S. Hampton Roads Chapter
Steve Stasulis, S. Hampton Roads Chapter
Mary Rhoades, New River Chapter President
Shirley Gay, Director at large
John Hayden, Botany chair

Additionally the following called into the meeting:

Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson Chapter President
Joyce Wenger, Publicity Chair
Erika Gonzalez-Akre, Director at large
Janet Pawlukiewicz, Nominee for 1st Vice President

Announcements

-Nancy thanked Nick and Kevin for hosting the meeting.
-Nancy brought paw paws bread and some paw paws for everyone to try and invited everyone to participate in a raffle of Lara Gastinger prints to benefit the Prince William Chapter.

Minutes of the June Meeting

- After adding Shirley Gay, the minutes, as amended, were accepted unanimously.

Proposal for VNPS to Acquire Land

- Rob Evans introduced the following proposal: "Consideration of a Proposal that the VNPS serve as an applicant for land acquisition grant funding when such opportunities arise. Ideally, such projects would be focused on key Natural Heritage priorities, including those identified in resiliency area and focal area planning. The Natural Heritage Program could serve as a partner with VNPS to provide technical information needed for such applications, and assistance with real-estate transactional details. If projects are closely aligned, NHP would be willing to accept eventual transfer of any funded properties once internal approvals, including those needed (if any) from the legislature. In the event that VNPS would need to take possession of any tract for a period of time before state acquisition can occur, Natural Heritage Program would provide land management expertise required on any acquired parcels."
-The Executive Committee is recommending the proposal, pending further information.
-Decision needs to be made by the October 9.
-Land choices would be targeted for biodiversity communities at fair market prices.
-The opportunity for the grant is due to a settlement with Dupont for mercury poisoning into the South River.
-Maintenance, taxes, administrative costs can be added to the grant proposal.
-Current insurance policy would cover the parcel with no extra cost but would need to be added.
-Rob Evans agreed to write the grant with a couple of VNPS members reviewing.
-Shirley encouraged political awareness as we proceed.

-Cathy Mayes moved to authorize the Executive Committee to enter into negotiations and submit a grant proposal application to the Dupont-Waynesboro settlement. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Cathy Mayes explained that 2/3 into the year our income is low.
- Fundraising effort for this year hasn't begun yet.
- This year we won't be making money on the State Meeting.
- 2018 Proposed Budget is balanced to include a raise for our Office Manager.
- Mary Rhoades moves to present the 2018 budget to the membership for a vote. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously.

Report on New Membership Management Software (Neon) roll out (Sept 6)

- Some member of the BOD have signed up for Neon.
- There have been no issues.
- Questions should be directed to Sue Dingwell.

Report on 2017 Annual Meeting/Tri-State Conference Plans

- Shirley reports that the plans are going well. Field trips are being worked out. GPS directions are questionable so written directions will need to be provided.
- Next year's annual meeting will be hosted by the John Clayton Chapter.

Nominating Committee

- Sue Dingwell is moving to Colorado. Her various duties will probably need to be parceled out to more than one person.
- Joyce Wenger will be moving from Publicity to a Director At-Large position.
- Cathy Mayes will be moving from Treasurer to a Director At-Large position.

2017 Fundraiser – Nancy

- Fundraising drive will start at the end of September and continue until the end of the year.

Committee, At-Large, and Chapter Reports:

- Member Helen Hamilton has published a new book "*Ferns & Mosses of Virginia's Coastal Plain*".

Next BOD meeting: December 2nd in Richmond, Virginia.

Meeting adjourned: 4:03 p.m.