

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting
September 9, 2016
Warm Hearth Village, Blacksburg, VA
Draft Minutes

President, Nancy Vehrs, called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Marjorie Prochaska, 1st Vice President
Sally Anderson, 2nd Vice President / Piedmont Chapter
Cathy Mayes, Treasurer
Betty Truax, Recording Secretary
Bland Crowder, Publications chair
Sue Dingwell, Director at large, website
Ruth Douglas, Director at large, Invasive plant education
Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson chapter president
Shirley Gay, Director at large
Marcia Mabee, Conservation chair
Mary Rhoades, New River chapter president
Johnny Townsend, Director at large
Katherine Smith, Upper James River Chapter
Steve Stasulis, South Hampton Chapter Representative
Butch Kelly, Blue Ridge Chapter
Also in attendance were Jan Smith and Cliff Gay

Announcements

- Nancy thanked Mary for arranging for meeting. She also announced that Wildflower of the Year brochures were available and encouraged attendees to take them back to their chapters.
- Nancy notified the membership of two thank you notes received since the March meeting
 - Thomas Smith, Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation thanked VNPS (Nancy Vehrs) for \$24,249.33 donation for acquisition of land.
 - Jake B. Schrum, President, Emory & Henry College thanked VNPS (Catherine Mayes) for Dr. Gerald Bresowar's research grant.
- Nancy to add Horticulture to the agenda.

Minutes of the June Meeting

- Johnny moved to accept the minutes, Mary Lee seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Progress Report on Ad Hoc Membership Records Management Committee

- Comparison of credit management systems are being done side by side by Sue, Charles Smith, Roxanne Paul and Leslie Allanson with a goal of determining the least expensive quality solution that will meet all our needs.
- Money for the setup and software is in the proposed budget.
- Discussions of effect on workload of office manager Karen York.
- Recommendation of software chosen will be presented in December meeting.
- Chapter presidents are asked to notify their membership chairs of the new software.

2017 Annual Meeting

- Being held in Shepherdstown, West Virginia at the US Fish and Wildlife Training facility September 29 – October 1, 2017.
- Tentative speakers are E. Byers/Wesley Knapp.
- Lots of places to see for field trips.
- Classrooms are expensive, probably prohibitive for labs being offered.

Treasurer's Report

- Cathy reported that 2-3 grants are budgeted to be offered in the upcoming year. Due to the low 2016 application rate, plans are to heavily promote the opportunity in the fall.
- Sally moved to increase the grant budget from 10K to 15K. It was seconded by Butch Kelly and accepted unanimously.
- After discussion of the possibility of paying someone to administer the new Membership Records program, it was decided to ask the membership at the Annual Business Meeting to approve recommended funding from \$2,500 to \$7,000 to cover the change.
- Sally moved to bring the budget as discussed to the Annual Business Meeting for adoption. Katherine Smith seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Proposal to Engage Young People in Botany

- Marjorie reported that after meeting with several people, it was concluded that this needed to be addressed at the local level. Katherine suggested a survey should be sent to chapters asking them what they are specifically doing to encourage youth involvement.
- Marjorie moved to recommend the formation of an Education Task Force, to be led by Education Chair Emily Ford, Lead Environmental Educator at Blandy Farm. Each chapter would be invited to select a representative to this task force for a meeting this fall. Procedures for application of funds can be developed. Sue seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Horticulture

- John Magee was tasked to choose six (6) plants to promote through local nurseries. After consulting with several experts, his written recommendations were as follows: Euphorbia corollata, Pycnanthemum virginianum, Senna marylandica, Eupatorium perfoliatum, Native Azaleas, Cornus drummondii. After discussion it was recommended that Cornus alternifolia would be a better choice than C. drummondii because the latter is not native to Virginia.
- Sue suggested involving the Virginia Native Marketing Campaign (Carol Heiser and Virginia Witmer).
- Betty moved that a Horticulture committee be formed with John Magee chairing to move the idea of encouraging native plants that are not often carried by nurseries (not endangered). Sally seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Invasive Plant Education Committee

- Ruth discussed that invasive Garnet Autumn Olive is readily available in nurseries. Ruth will compose a letter to the owners of Edible Landscaping who are advertising its availability encouraging them to continue to offer many great native plants but consider not offering this invasive one.
- Ruth reported the range of Wavy Leaf grass is expanding. It is now found in Albemarle county and in Pennsylvania. Visit www.BlueRidgePrism.org for fact sheets about this and other invasive plants.

Update on 2016 Annual Meeting

- There will not be a podium available.
- Field trips will begin at 9:00am or 1:30pm.
- Nancy will be selling VNPS merchandise during the weekend.

Shirley asked if anyone was interested in a Geology field trip to Goshen Pass in March 2017 and the board expressed interest in proceeding.

Next BOD meeting: 10a.m., December 3, in Richmond Virginia
Adjourn: 4:45 p.m.