

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2016

Fairfield Public Library, Henrico

President, Nancy Vehrs, called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., with the following in attendance:

Sally Anderson, 2nd Vice President / Piedmont Chapter president

Cathy Mayes, Treasurer

Betty Truax, Recording Secretary

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

Johnny Townsend, Director at large

Butch Kelly, Blue Ridge Chapter representative

Alan Ford, Potowmack Chapter president

John Hayden, Botany chair

Charles Smith, Registry Co-Chair/Chairman of the Ad Hoc Membership Records Management Committee

Nick Ferriter, Northern Neck Chapter, 1st Vice President

Leslie Allanson, Pocahontas Chapter President

Announcements

-Nancy thanked Leslie for providing coffee and local donuts. Nancy brought pumpkin bread and fruit.

Nick Ferriter was introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

-Johnny provided copies of the Native Plants Southeast Virginia Region Brochure (DCR publication) and Nancy brought Sempervirens Newsletters and Membership brochures for chapter representatives to take as needed.

Minutes of the September Meeting

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

Appointment of Nick Ferriter as First Vice President

-Shirley moved to accept the appointment of Nick Ferriter as First Vice President (temporary member of the board for one year). Mary Lee seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

-Cathy stated report data is through October 2016. Membership numbers are low but often more join in fourth quarter.

-Discussion sending out the Leaf Letter to ensure timely news is sent out between copies of Sempervirens.

-Expenses were as expected.

-Discussions involved profits from SW VA trip and guidelines for pricing field trips. The Executive Committee will discuss and recommend policies.

Recommendation re: Ad Hoc Membership Records Management Committee

-All of Karen York's files are backed up onto UVA server.

-Charles explained the current Access database is 20 years old and needed updating. It's a patchwork of 5 different systems. The committee recommends NeonCM to be our new software.

-Alan moved that we accept the committee recommendation. Sue seconded the motion, and it carried with Nick abstaining.

-Discussions ensued regarding costs. Initial cost is \$4470, but there would be other training costs as well. Monthly costs - \$150. Extra \$50 for live Quickbooks charge. In 2016 – Setup-import cost \$2160. In 2017 - \$2310 includes first year of service (and one free month).

- Alan moved to accept the costs with Sue seconding. The motion carried with Butch voting no.
- Alan wants the Executive Committee to locate dedicated person(s) to work NeonCM.
- Changes to be made to the membership sign up brochures.

2017 Workshop

- Being held March 4th from 9:00 – 3:00 followed by the BOD meeting at 3:30.
- Sally reported that two speakers have been arranged, one to talk about lichens, the second to talk about mosses.
- Pocahontas Chapter will pick up refreshment costs to be reimbursed by VNPS at the state level.

2017 Field Trips

- Goshen Pass, March 18 with David Spears. Johnny might be able to go as the Botanist (Tom Wieboldt). David to determine trail difficulty.
- Northern Neck – 2 nights; second or third week in May.
- Another Southwest VA trip. Possibly first week in May.

2017 Annual Meeting Plans

- Alan stated that the main speakers and large number of walk leaders have been chosen. Lara Call-Gastinger will be holding a field journaling workshop. In addition, there will be other workshops (GIS and I-Naturalist). 6 meals will be included (from Fri. dinner through Sun. lunch) with the lodging fee.
- Still looking for a chapter to host 2018. Nancy will ask John Clayton Chapter (Williamsburg) to host.

Report from Education Task Force

- Emily was not in attendance.

Horticulture Committee

- John was not in attendance.

2017 Board Calendar

- Alan will work on figuring out remote electronic access to BOD meetings.
- Nick suggested September meeting be hosted by the Northern Neck Chapter in conjunction with its annual plant sale.
- Leslie moved we accept the 2017 board calendar as amended, Charles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Next BOD meeting: to follow the 2017 Workshop, at 3:30pm at the University of Richmond.

At Large / Chapter / Committee highlights:

- Ruth said Wavyleaf grass is expanding. Fact sheet available through Blue Ridge PRISM. Someone in the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association is trying to get Golden Bamboo listed as a noxious weed.
- Leslie talked about Pocahontas chapter working on James River Park invasive removal. Working on outreach and made donation to Nature Camp.
- Encourage people going on nature walks to join the VNPS.
- Northern Neck has new President – Kevin Howe
- Alan Ford thanks all for voting for him (Cox Conserves Award). The money (\$10,000) will pay for two summer interns for the next 2-3 years at Green Spring Gardens plus another one at Huntley Meadows Park
- 2017 Wildflower of the Year brochure needs photos of *Actaea racemosa*.

Meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.