

**Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting
December 7, 2019
Varina Area Public Library
1875 New Market Rd, Henrico
Draft**

President Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. with the following in attendance:

Kevin Howe, 1st Vice President
Sally Anderson, 2nd Vice President
Kathleen Stasulis, Treasurer
Betty Truax, Recording Secretary
Peggy Troyer, Fundraising Chair
Alex Fisher, Conservation Chair
John Hayden, Botany Chair
Mark Murphy, Co-Web Administrator
Ruth Douglas, co-Director at Large, Invasive Plant Education
John Townsend, Director at Large, Natural Heritage
Butch Kelly, Blue Ridge Wildflower Society Representative
Leslie Allanson, Pocahontas Chapter President
Steve Stasulis, South Hampton Roads President
Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson Chapter President

Also in attendance were Jim Hurley (by phone), co-Director at Large, Invasive Plant Education, and Donna Murphy, Potowmack Chapter member.

Announcements/Changes

- Nancy passed around a card asking for voluntary donations for an end of the year gift for Karen York.
- VNPS received a thank you card from Alex Fisher in his appreciation of cards/gifts he received for the birth of his daughter.
- Nancy introduced and welcomed Kevin and Jim.
- Cathy Mayes has resigned her position. She has accepted hospice care. Nancy will formally thank her for her years of service to VNPS.
- Nancy requested chapter representatives send in any changes to their board members.
- Nancy will turn the meeting over to Kevin because she will be leaving the meeting early to attend VNPS member David Roos' Celebration of Life ceremony.

Mary Painter, VNPS Founder

- Executive Committee recommends honoring her by offering a scholarship to the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference at Western Carolina University. Kathleen moved to offer a \$500 scholarship in Mary Painter's name. Steve seconded and it passed unanimously. Nancy will follow up with the Cullowhee Conference committee.

Minutes of the June Board Meeting

- Accepted, without objection, by all.

Confirmation of Electronic Vote to Purchase New Computer for Blandly Office

- After some discussion Mark moved to purchase a new computer for the Blandly office. Steve seconded and it passed unanimously.
- Kathleen will inform Judi Masi we are purchasing the computer.

Treasurer's Report - Kathleen explained the written report.

- \$280K loss is the land donation crossing over two fiscal years. We are actually in the black.
- \$17K was transferred from the Money Market for Grants.
- On-line banking: Kathleen and Nancy will have access. Members to let one of them know if they feel they need access.
- We also are now using on-line Quickbooks. If a member needs access, please speak to Kathleen.
- Carolyn Helmsie, (Upper James River) invited VNPS to apply for a grant of 5K for the Plant Virginia Natives Guides campaign.

2019 Fundraiser

- Peggy announced that VNPS has collected \$14,089.22 for the "Seed Money" campaign.
- Prince William Wildflower Society contributed \$1K and Nancy challenged other chapters to do the same.
- Initial focus will be on new guides (at least 2 campaigns have been started).
- Peggy will send out handwritten notes for donations of \$100 or more.

2020 Annual Meeting – Abington, Virginia (Sept 25-27)

- Nancy has chosen SW Virginia Cultural Center (exit 14) for our meeting place. We will have the entire building with room for classes and the BOD meeting.
- There are two hotels close by. She reserved 50 rooms at Comfort Inn Suites.
- Nancy had decided not to do Friday night dinner. Discussions regarding the decision followed.
- Suggestions included Claiborne for musical entertainment and Doug Opal (strong botanist) for keynote speaker for Saturday night. Blue Ridge Discovery may have thoughts on where we can go.

2020 Board Calendar

- Moved this item earlier in meeting so Nancy would have input before turning the meeting over to Kevin.
- Discussions regarding when the December BOD should be held. The decision was made it will remain on December 5th.

Kevin Howe, 1st Vice President, presided upon Nancy's departure.

Board Vacancies

- Contact Nancy with any candidates to be considered for the following positions:
 - Grants (2020)
 - Membership (2021)
 - Publications (2021)

2020 Field Trips

- Sally and Butch have decided on the Blue Ridge Parkway (Buffalo Mtn, Clayton Natural Center, Rocky Mtn. Heritage areas).
- Short Field trip to Long Leaf Pines. Possibly in April but hasn't been decided yet.

Annual Workshop 2020

- Meeting will be held at the Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) on March 14, 2020, in Charlottesville. The topic will be Climate Change.
- 3 speakers have been selected. Alex agreed to help find a fourth speaker.
- Discussions regarding mailing vs emailing information. Mark will send statistics to the Executive Committee.

News from Richmond

- Johnny spoke about Natural Heritage looking at Lynchhurst Ponds, a threatened landscape. There is a meeting with VDOT regarding roadside plantings. Working with ERNST regarding local genotype seeds.

Action to Approve Quarry Gardens as a VNPS Registry Site

- Discussion of the qualifications, including Mark reading the on-line nomination process. It was decided to table this until next meeting. BOD members would like Charles Smith to address some questions.

Presentation of Highlights of Reports from Chapters, Committee Chairs, Directors at Large

- Northern Neck chapter will be hosting a Skunk Cabbage walk again. It is usually attended by 15-30 people). They made \$6K from their native plant sale.
- Jefferson Chapter will have Mary Jane Epps presenting at its December meeting. She will discuss pollination of native azaleas.
- Pocahontas Chapter reported they have had successful walks led by Joey Thompson. They plan to participate in the Orchid show.
- Johnny mentioned he brought a lot of brochures for the chapters. Sally agreed to take any remaining brochures to the Blandy office.
- Alex Fisher questioned charging for walks, talks etc. Are there VNPS guidelines? Members talked about how they handled charging if at all. Possible Executive Committee weigh in.
- A new native plant nursery is opening up: Mid Atlantic Natives in Cobbs Creek, Virginia.

Next BOD meeting: Saturday, March 14th at PVCC in Charlottesville

Adjourn: 12:44 p.m.