

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting
September 17, 2020
Via Zoom
Minutes

President Nancy Vehrs, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following participating:

Kathy O'Shea – Membership Chair nominee	Johnny Townsend, Dir. At Large, Natural Heritage
Peggy Troyer, Fundraising Chair	Ted Munn, Northern Neck Chapter President
Mark Murphy, Web Admin	Laura Beaty, Horticulture Chair
Sally Anderson, Second Vice President	Ashley Moulton, Publicity Chair
Betty Truax, Recording Secretary	Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson President
Jim Hurley, Co-Chair, Invasive Species Education	Kathleen Stasulis, Treasurer
Steve Stasulis, South Hampton Roads President	Jan Smith, Upper James River President
Emily Southgate, Piedmont President	Ellen Holtman, Blue Ridge President
Ruth Douglas, Co-Chair, Invasive Species Education	

Also in attendance were Susan Gitlin and Judy Dority, Facebook Group Admins.

Announcements/Introductions/Additions –

- Nancy introduced Susan Gitlin and Judy Dority, Facebook Group Admins to discuss whether VNPS should take a position on native plant cultivars.
- Changes made to the Potowmack Chapter By-Laws
- Nancy noted that this evening's board meeting conflicted with a meeting of the John Clayton Chapter where John Hayden was the guest speaker.

Approval of June Meeting Minutes – Peggy moved to accept the minutes. Steve seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Appointment of Kathleen O'Shea as Membership Chair (membership-elected term begins Nov. 1, 2020). Sally moved to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation. Steve seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Kathleen reported we are in good shape considering the impact of Covid. Our dues have remained steady. She used 2019 numbers to come up with the 2021 budget. Ruth moved to adopt the budget and to present it to the membership at the Annual Meeting. Steve seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2020 Annual Meeting, Sept. 25, 2020 – The Zoom meeting will open early for social networking. The fundraiser will be announced, the budget presented, recognition of Carol Heiser's retirement from VDGIF, renamed Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), and honorarium to Chris Ludwig.

2020 Fundraiser – Sally proposed "Future of the Flora" fundraiser. Peggy and Sally to draft a letter to membership. Ruth asked if guides were fully funded. Nancy said she thought they were but would confirm. Ashley discussed the status of the Doug Tallamy video. There is \$3,500 set aside. She committed to putting together something for VNPS review.

Zoom Presentation on Conservation Infrastructure by Chris Ludwig

Discussions on whether the presentation should be broken down into two parts. In November plan to have further discussions on what he should talk about. Consider looking at our social media pages for ideas of topics.

Nancy suggested having state level (educational) Zoom presentations regularly. There was interest and there was further discussion on how long they should last, how often they should happen, and whether they should be a charge involved. Nancy will look further into this.

2021 Events – Since no one knows when things will return to normal, we're not sure how to proceed. Discussions of webinars vs Zoom if things don't improve.

Native Plant Cultivars – Discussed if we should take a position and, if so, what that position would be. There has been a lot of discussion about this on the Facebook Group page. Discussed the pros and cons which resulted in the formation of a committee to include Mark, Susan, Judy, Emily, and Jan, with Laura being the chair. Alan Ford will be invited to join them. They will get back to us with recommendations. Laura asked for any examples of good vs bad cultivars be sent to her.

Future of the Flora of Virginia Project – Nancy and John Hayden are on a five-person committee. Most of current group plans to retire from the project after 20 years. Sally informed us that they are trying to form a new board to continue the project.

Highlights of Reports from Chapters, Committee Chairs, and Directors-at-Large

- Ellen reported that the Blue Ridge chapter had a plant sale (socially distant) in July instead of May and made the same amount of money they had in the past.
- Mark announced that his chapter board had voted to change its bylaws. There is a requirement that it be approved by the state board. Emily moved to accept the changes to the bylaws and Steve seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Next BOD meeting: in December (day to be decided via Doodle Poll)

Adjourn: 9:00 p.m.