

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting
March 17, 2021
Via Zoom

President Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Kathleen O'Shea – Membership Chair	Johnny Townsend, Dir. At Large Natural Heritage
Peggy Troyer, Fundraising Chair	Kevin Howe, First Vice President
Mark Murphy, Website 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	Ted Munns, Northern Neck President
Steve Stasulis, South Hampton Roads President	Matt Brooks, Pocahontas President
Emily Southgate, Piedmont President	John Hayden, Botany Chair
Ruth Douglas, Co-Chair Invasive Species Education	Virginia Witmer, Publications Chair
Alan Ford, Potowmack, President	Mark Rhodes, New River representative
Joey Thompson, Education Chair	Jessica Fleming, Blue Ridge Wildflower, President
Donna Murphy, VNPS member	Peggy Dyson Cobb, Upper James River Vice President
Brenda Graff, New River, President	

Announcements/Introductions/Additions

Steve Stasulis reported Kathleen is doing well following surgery.

Approval of December Meeting Minutes – Alan moved to accepted the minutes as circulated. Steve seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Kathleen was unable to attend. There were no questions to the treasurer's reports as circulated.

2021 Workshop on Climate Change (Zoom)

Joey reported the speakers were well received. Attendance was great with enough donations to cover expenses. Sally suggested that we record and post future meetings when we are able to go live again. Nancy suggested getting ideas from our membership for the 2022 workshop. Sally and Joey will send out a survey. Joey will write an article for *Sempervirens* regarding the 2021 workshop. There were discussions regarding combining Zoom and live meeting as well as YouTube vs Vimeo. No decisions were made.

2021 Annual Meeting

There were discussions if the meeting this year would be live or Zoom. The consensus was to err on the side of safety and hold a virtual event. Nancy is looking for a speaker (or two) for the event.

Selection of 2022 Wildflower of the Year

John Hayden received 23 ballots with *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (Buttonbush) being the chosen plant.

Native Plant Cultivars Recommendation

Sally Anderson moved to adopt as a statement and post on our website the recommendation made by the Native Plant Cultivars Committee as circulated. Steve Stasulis seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Research Grants Status Report

Kevin reported the committee received 6 proposals for a total of \$53K. Our yearly expenditure has been \$15K - \$19K. The committee will send a recommendation to the Executive Board in time for its next meeting.

State Legislation

HR 527 has passed in the General Assembly. There is no funding required so the work can begin immediately.

Sempervirens Schedule

Nancy, Nancy Sorrells, and Virginia Witmer had discussions resulting in a commitment of four issues annually (January, April, July and October). Number of pages will be adjusted to support content.

Website Tour

Mark Murphy presented a VNPS website tour to ensure chapters/members are aware of the massive amount of information that is available. Some of the highlights were:

- Searches on the VNPS website
- Events
- Updated Admin handbook
- Blogs
- Chapter location map (new)

Expiring Board Positions in 2021

Positions scheduled to expire in 2021 are President as well as the Botany, Fundraising, Horticulture, Membership, and Web Chairs.

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

- VNPS members donated over \$12,000 to be given to Clifton Institute in memory of Cathy Mayes for research and care of the pollinator garden.

Next BOD meeting: June 2021 (day to be decided via Doodle Poll)

Adjourn: 9:02 p.m.