

NHC Education Subcommittee Minutes 5-24-21, 5pm-6pm

Attendance: Christine Putnam, Emily Luebke, Michael Rodemeyer, Bruce Gatling-Austin, Emma Andrews, Nicole (County Staff)

1. Meeting minutes approved. Bruce moved to approve. Michael seconded. Approved by roll call vote.
2. Agenda approved. Michael moved to approve. Bruce seconded. Approved by roll call vote.
3. Conservation Mowing
  - a. Flier created by Emma
    - i. In email, Kim suggests putting "Albemarle Natural Heritage Committee in cooperation with Albemarle County Parks" near top
      1. Suggestion will be incorporated
    - ii. In email, Devin expressed concern over phrase "improved wildlife habitat" since "doing nothing" will not improve habitat - need restoration efforts
      1. Christine says Parks seem open to this - might need direction and money
  - b. Darden Towe
    - i. Michael took photos and video footage with drone
    - ii. Room to expand unmowed area
    - iii. Need to work towards restoring habitat in future
    - iv. Consider having trails and/or boardwalk through area for education and ease of access to park
  - c. Walnut Creek
    - i. Stopped mowing on hillsides surrounding parking near beach
      1. Small's ragwort growing
      2. Christine took photos and shared with Jim Barbour at County Parks
  - d. Chris Greene
    - i. Opportunity to reduce mowing on right hand side of road after entering park
    - ii. Should check on the need to mow the dam regularly - could it be done once/year?
  - e. Other ideas - Walton Middle School?
4. Old Mills Trail Cleanup
  - a. June 5, 8-10am near boat launch
  - b. "Let's Talk Albemarle" van to be there
  - c. Chance to reach out to community about conservation mowing
    - i. Christine will be there as SWAAC rep to talk about recycling
5. Landowner Welcome Packet
  - a. Landowner Resource Page
    - i. Kim suggested including specific programs run by City/County

- ii. Consolidate list of county programs to single link to “Landowner Opportunities” page that exists on county website
  - iii. Agreed to ask county to update NHC website to include this resource page
- b. Landowner Letter
  - i. Kim, Christine and Michael made edits - now ready to go.
- c. Landowner Selection
  - i. Kim did new pull of data to include acreage and sale price plus display in chronological order
  - ii. Christine to pick most recent 25 transfers in 20+ acre range for trial run
    - 1. Will send just letter, not fliers.
- d. Important Sites
  - i. Revisit idea of sending letters to owners of parcels that include important sites.
    - 1. Emma suggests “on or near” important site as language to use
    - 2. Identify properties on GIS
    - 3. Make sure focus is on offering help/advice rather than turning it into favor for visitors to visit site

## TASKS

Christine - check into process of identifying owners of important sites

Bruce - help Christine with important sites

Emily - follow up with Ches about funding for ACE and whether it is a good idea to include brochure in packet

Christine - identify 25 property owners for initial landowner packet

Christine - email Albemarle County School Board about reduced mowing on school grounds

Christine - ask Jim Barbour about mowing requirements for dams

Emily - create and share Googlemap with areas of possible reduced mowing indicated for Chris Greene

Christine - follow up on help from PEC with mailing packets? more follow-up on PRISM or Natural Landscape brochures?

Emma - Work with Christine on possibility of creating new flier similar to Natural Landscape brochure

Christine - ask county to update Landowner Resources Page with new one