

**Minutes of Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee (NHC) Meeting  
February 3rd, 2022 – Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

Committee Members: Christine Putnam, Lonnie Murray, Kate Mallek, Michael Callahan, Bruce Gatlin-Austin, Peggy Cornett, Leah Jung

Absent: Nancy Weiss, Emma Andrews

Other Attendees: Sean Tubbs, Rod Walker, Nicola McGoff, Kennon Williams, Abigail Wilson, Tom Chapman

Staff: Kim Biasioli, Carolyn Schaffer, Nicole Jones

There was a quorum of six members present, and Christine called the meeting to order at 5:33.

Welcome to guests. Abigail Wilson new prospective member.

Peggy moved approval of the agenda, Bruce seconded. Approved by a roll call vote.

Lonnie moved approval of the minutes, Mike seconded. Approved by a roll call vote.

Follow-Ups

- Piedmont Native Plant Database
  - Lonnie working with Repp Glaettli and Code for Cville on version 2.0.
  - Database will have the option to print the new Piedmont Native Plants guide.
  - New features and data structure in development; looking at options for new interface.
  - Need volunteers with IT skills. Abigail is interested in volunteering.
  - Opensource; data will be widely available.
  - Discussion of Recommended Plants List – will be incorporated into the database. Kim is continuing to encourage the updated list to be incorporated into the site plan ordinance update. Suggestion to create a ‘do not plant’ list which could refer to DCR’s list.
  - The County does not generally have the authority to require planting only natives.
- Important Site Updates and Outreach
  - Lonnie is tracking down and reverifying rare species in the County.
- Spotted Lanternfly Update
  - VDACS presented to the BOS on 2/2 and there was a follow up NBC29 article.
  - Flyer could be sent out more widely throughout the County.

Staff Update

- BAP Database in development to track progress on recommendations.
- Interdepartmental invasives management team is currently being formed.
- Sustainable operations policies team is currently being formed and will cover a variety of related policies.
- Bridget Donaldson and Kim met with VDOT and County transportation planner to present info on the 29 south wildlife crossings project and discuss pursuing future grant opportunities.
- New landowner education project is underway. The Environmental Stewardship Hub is currently in progress as a first step and the Education Work Group is providing some input.
- Stream Health Initiative is ongoing. Projects were presented to the BOS in December and broadly supported. Some projects are underway and some have budget requests submitted.
- The Comp Plan process is moving forward; applications for working group opened this week.

### NHC Workplan and Goals

- Goal is to keep track of what the committee has accomplished and what individuals plan to work on. The workplan can focus efforts, relate to goals in the BAP for annual reporting and update to the BAP, and provide accountability.
- There is a need to revisit the prioritization of key action items.
- Suggestion for the policy group to work on advising the BOS, which is part of the NHC charter. Policy group has a spreadsheet with topics; there is a need to prioritize and focus on timely issues.
- **Action Item:** Christine suggested the policy group can advocate for ACE and other land conservation programs in the County.
- Discussion of Climate Action Plan implementation status. Kim and others are on the core program team; focus now is on rolling out the climate lens to all of the work in all departments. Request for Kim to share any key issues/projects related to biodiversity.
- **ACTION ITEM:** NHC Members will review the work plan to focus on their personal goals and update key actions items.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Work groups will work on items related to their focal area in their upcoming meetings.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Christine will add a section to the workplan to help track issues that might be considered for inclusion in the BAP update.

### Other Matters

- Membership updates: Nancy is resigning; Abigail may be interested in joining.
- Christine has been chair for almost two years and it may be time to consider new leadership.
- Emma has agreed to be the vice-chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29. Next meeting date is March 3rd, 2022.