



## Minutes of Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee (NHC) Meeting September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 – County Office Building at 401 McIntire Road, Room 235

**Committee Members:** Christine Putnam, Peggy Cornett, Abigail Wilson, Kate Mallek, Michael Callahan, Lonnie Murray, Bruce Gatling-Austin, Dan Mahon, Leah Jung

**Absent:** Emma Andrews

**Other Attendees:** Robert Soper and Kelsey Schoenemann

**Staff:** Kim Biasioli

1. Christine called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.
2. There was a quorum of eight members present.
3. Guests were welcomed.
4. Michael moved approval of the Meeting Agenda; Lonnie seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous. The Agenda was approved.
5. Peggy moved approval of the August Meeting Minutes; Michael seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous. The Minutes were approved.
6. Presentation on Bee Research in Albemarle County Parks by Kelsey Schoenemann, MSc, PhD Candidate
  - o Co-Chair "Bee Grounds UVA"; UVA Dept of Environmental Sciences
7. Follow-Ups
  - A. Important Site Updates and Outreach
    - o Discussion transitioned to B.
  - B. Field Visit Debrief
    - o Several members visited the Red Hill Wetland site (Virginia) on August 23, 2022.
    - o Landowner met the group on site; over 70 species were observed.
    - o Trees were down on the boardwalk, so the group mainly walked around the outside and not through the middle of the site.
    - o Lonnie recommended visiting the [Massey Herbarium](#) and figuring out what other species Mo Stevens may have observed in Albemarle County.
    - o Christine suggested another site visit soon, possibly October. Lonnie recommended [Preddy Creek](#).
    - o **Action Items: Christine will send out a "doodle poll" for a date and is seeking input on other priority sites to visit.**
  - C. Recommended Albemarle County Plants List
    - o Christine sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending adoption of the 2021 updated Recommended Plant List.
    - o The County Planning Director added the list to the NHC website as the 'Natural Heritage Committee Plant List', which does not address the purpose and the need, or the recommendation for the list in the County's Comprehensive Plan and the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). Additional species are still being recommended.
    - o Dan recommended getting the local nurseries on board.
    - o **Action Items: Christine will send a follow up to the group for further action.**



#### 8. Staff Update

- Kim will be leaving Albemarle County as of 9/6/2022 and transitioning to work as a Land Conservation Specialist at Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) and will continue to collaborate with the NHC in a different capacity.
- The BOS is to advertise the Natural Resources Manager position.
- ***Margaret? or Scott?*** will provide staff support until a new Natural Resources Manager is hired.
- The ongoing Stream Health projects have been assigned to other staff members and are continuing to move forward. The BAP Update and Stream Buffer Overlay District programs will continue.
- Christine proposed Michael to assume the Secretary's responsibilities.
  - Leah made a motion to appoint Michael Callahan as Committee Secretary; Peggy seconded; the vote was unanimous, and the motion approved.

#### 9. BAP Review of Goals & Recommendations (Goals 5 & 6)

- Goal 5: Minimize or reduce habitat fragmentation county-wide and maintain habitat connectivity.
  - Proposed changes were presented and discussed informally.
- Goal 6: Improve policies for subdivision of properties to help prevent habitat fragmentation and maintain parcels of sufficient size for agriculture and forestry.
  - Some changes were initially discussed, but it was apparent that members needed additional opportunities to develop and propose changes.
- ***Action Item: Christine will post a "google doc" so members can add their comments and proposed changes to be discussed at the October Committee meeting.***

#### 10. Working Group & Member Reports

- There was no time left for Working Group and Member Reports.

#### 11. Other Matters Not Listed on the Agenda

- There were no other matters discussed as the meeting time had expired.

#### 12. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm. The next meeting is planned for October 6th, 2022, at 5:30pm, to be held in-person at the Albemarle County Office Building.

Minutes prepared by Kim Biasiulli and Michael Callahan.