

DRAFT

Minutes from the Albemarle County Natural Heritage (NHC) Committee Meeting

March 2, 2023, 5:30pm

Albemarle County Office Building (Room 250)

401 McIntire Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22902

Committee Members Present: Christine Putnam, *Chair*, Mike Callahan, *Secretary*, Meghan Sobiott, Dan Mahon, Leah Jung, Lonnie Murray, Peggy Cornett, and Abigail Wilson

Other Guests & Attendees:

- Kevin McDermott, Director of Planning, Albemarle County
- James Fulcher, Community Development, Albemarle County
- Rob McGinnis, Senior Land Use Field Representative for Albemarle & Greene Counties, Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC)
- Tom Olivier, former Natural Heritage Committee member

Staff: Scott Clark

1. Call to Order. Christine called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.
2. Establish a Quorum. There was a quorum present.
3. Welcome/Acknowledge Guests. Kevin, James, Rob, and Tom introduced themselves.
4. 2023 Officer Elections. Christine was reelected as Chair and Meghan was elected as Vice-Chair, both by voice vote. Michael had previously agreed to serve as the Committee's Secretary and will continue in that position.
5. Approval of Agenda. Leah motioned to approve the meeting Agenda and Peggy seconded the motion. Committee members present voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.
6. Approval of Minutes. Meghan motioned to approve the final Minutes from the February 2, 2023 meeting and Leah seconded the motion. Committee members voted unanimously to approve the Minutes.

At this point in the meeting, Kevin McDermott was introduced to provide the committee with an update on the process being used to review the Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan. Kevin affirmed that "Goals and Objectives" would be developed for Phase 2 of the Plan review. Kevin emphasized that comments by Committee members should be submitted to Scott who will forward them to the review team.

Prior to this meeting, Christine had posted a "Google doc" for the Committee to review. The three-page document, "*Goals and Objectives by Plan Chapter*" (no date), was available for

Committee members to make changes online prior to the meeting. The document will be attached to the final draft of these minutes for reference.

The document focused on the **Growth Management** chapter which included:

- Natural Resources
- Rural Area
- Parks and Recreation, Greenways, Blueways, and Green Systems

During the meeting, Committee members discussed their proposed additions, deletions, and changes as Scott captured member's comments and suggestions, to pass to the review committee.

Some of the Committee's suggested "Objectives" to be added or modified for consideration by the Comprehensive Plan review team included:

- Dark sky protection
- Climate resilience through green infrastructure
- Stream buffers for flood protection, greenways, stream health and wildlife
- Improved air quality
- Highlight economic and health benefits of equitable access to natural spaces and greenways

Christine reminded Committee members to respond to the AC44 Phase 2 online questionnaire. The availability of the questionnaire has been extended to Friday, March 17, 2023.

https://engage.albemarle.org/phase2?tool=survey_tool

At 7:00pm, the Chair's goal as the time to end meetings, Committee members agreed to briefly extend the meeting until 7:15pm to finalize discussions.

7. Other Matters.

- Emma Andrews and Bruce Gatling-Austin have resigned from the committee because they are unable to attend the in-person meetings.

8. Adjournment.

- Leah moved to end the meeting and Christine adjourned at 7:24pm.
- The next meeting of the Natural Heritage Committee will be held on April 6, 2023, at 5:30pm, in room 235, at the Albemarle County Office Building, 401 McIntire Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

The minutes were prepared by Michael Callahan, Secretary for the Natural Heritage Committee.