

**Draft Minutes**  
**Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee (NHC) Meeting**  
11/2/2023

Present: Christine Putnam, Chair; Meghan Sobott, Vice-Chair, Mike Callahan, Secretary, Leah Jung, Dan Mahon, Lonnie Murray; Abigail Wilson (5:45pm), Mona El Khafif, Ph.D.

Note: Committee member Lily Engle has resigned. Long time committee member Peggy Cornett's term has ended and will not seek another appointment to the Committee. Christine praised Peggy for her years of service on the Committee.

Absent:

Staff: Scott Clark, James Fulcher

1. Call to Order
2. Establish a Quorum - 5 members were present to open the meeting.
3. Welcome/Acknowledge Guests: Former Committee member Tom Olivier and guest speaker [Lisa Wittenborn, Executive Director, Rivanna Conservation Alliance](#)
4. Review and Approve November 2023 Agenda
  - Leah Jung motioned approval; Meghan Sobott seconded approval; all members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting agenda.
5. Review and Approve October 2023 Minutes
  - Leah Jung motioned approval; Meghan Sobott seconded approval; all members present voted unanimously to approve the minutes.
6. Other Matters Not Listed on the Agenda from the Public: Tom Olivier spoke briefly about attending a [C'ville 100 meeting](#); made Committee members aware of [Biophilic Cities, by UVA Professor Tim Beatley](#), and mentioned the City of Charlottesville's [J.D. Brown \(Tree Commission\)](#).
7. Lisa Wittenborn, Executive Director, Rivanna Conservation Alliance made a presentation to attendees. ["Rivanna River Resilience Projects" Rivanna River Watershed 2023 Stream Health Report.](#)
8. Wildlife Corridor Update:  
Leah reported that she had recently made a presentation at Crozet Public Library; she suggested [iNaturalist](#) could be used to monitor wildlife corridors and that an Albemarle Wildlife group had already formed.

9. Budget Proposals: Christine prepared a letter recommending County budget priorities to be submitted to Supervisors and requested Committee approval to forward. Lonnie moved to approve the letter; Mike seconded. The motion to forward the letter was unanimously approved. (Link letter here.)
10. County Native Plant Demonstration Beds; need for signage and regular maintenance;  
**Action: Christine to prepare a letter of support and seek Committee approval in December.**
11. Staff Update: **Was not discussed as time was exceeded.**
12. Follow-Ups: **Was not discussed as time was exceeded.**
  - a. Important Site Updates and Outreach
13. BAP Review of Goals & Recommendations: **Was not discussed as time was exceeded.**  
*“Goal 18: Clean up and reuse potentially contaminated sites with bioremediation and natural habitat restoration.”*

Committee meeting in December 2023; members voiced desire to meet outdoors in Spring 2024.

- Committee members sought to move future meeting times to 5:45-7:15pm, to allow adequate travel.
- The Committee voted to hold its first 2024 meeting virtually in January 2024.  
**Action: A meeting schedule should be prepared and posted so that the Public is made aware of meeting dates and times.**

14. Adjourned at 7:12pm.

Note: The next NHC meeting will be a virtual meeting on December 7, 2023 starting at 5:45pm.

**Action: A revised meeting invite will need to be sent to Committee members along with a Zoom invitation that will allow the Public to attend.**