

Draft Minutes
from the Albemarle County
Natural Heritage Committee (NHC) In-Person Meeting, 5:45pm
September 5, 2024

Present: Rob McGinnis, Chair, Christine Putnam, Vice-Chair, Mike Callahan, Secretary, Leah Jung, and Kaleb Notari

Absent: Lonnie Murray, Mona El Khafif, Ph.D., and Megan Sebasky (new member)

Notes:

- The Committee has 4 open seats needing to fill its 12 authorized positions.

Staff: Scott Clark

1. Call to Order. The meeting was declared in-session at 5:48pm.
2. Establishment of a Quorum. Five (5) committee members were present to open the meeting.
3. Welcome/Acknowledge Guests.
4. Review and Approve Meeting Agenda
 - A Motion to approve tonight's Meeting Agenda was made by Leah. Mike asked that the date of the Minutes be corrected from July to August on the Agenda.
 - The Motion was seconded by Mike and approved with the correction by the members present.
5. Review and Approve August 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to approve the August 1st Meeting Minutes with the correction was made by Leah. Kaleb seconded the Motion and it was approved unanimously by the members present.
6. Matters from the Public not listed on the Agenda. None.
7. Staff Update (by Scott Clark)
 - Scott advised that new easements and amendments were increasing.
 - The new planner position in the Community Development Department was filled by [James Van Draken](#), who had previously been overseeing conservation easements.
8. AC44 Comp Plan Update
 - There was an update meeting held yesterday (9/4/2024); staff will be starting to reachout to gather public input.

- Staff is organizing to gather input for the Rural, Environmental, and Transportation sections of the updated AC44.
- *Follow-up/Next steps:*
 - Multiple sessions are to be held with Action Steps to follow (tbd).
 - There will be a work session for the Planning Commission in November.
 - The [Solar Ordinance - Ordinance draft](#); email from [Bill Fritz regarding sheep grazing in Spotsylvania](#); Rob thinks the process to move the ordinance forward has fallen behind; Scott is anticipating that it may be ready for consideration by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors (BoS) in October.
- Rob reported that the section heading in the draft updated AC44 document is now labeled “Goals”; has been revised to “Goal Statements”; “Objectives” remains the same, and “Action Steps” will be labeled Actions. The Staff needs to get the Public Engagement Plan issued.

9. Update on *Personal Wireless Service Facilities Ordinance*

- Rob reported on the presentation on 9/4/2024 ([Item 24-376](#)) for the BoS to consider the Staff proposed Alternatives.
- During the BoS meeting, it was proposed that the BoS ***adopt the ordinance text attached to the Staff Report as Attachment B, as amended by [specify alternative(s)] on Attachment C.***
- Also see Full Text of Executive Summary linked here above in 9)A.

10. FY 24/25 Work Plan

- Member roles
 - Scott to resend the final version of the Work Plan that was approved by the Committee.
 - Mike suggested that a framework (including timelines, milestones, and reporting requirements) should be developed to help organize each task. Mike will forward his ideas for a framework to Rob for consideration.
 - Rob asked that Task “Champions” be identified as part of the Framework.
 - Role of staff regarding tasks should be included as well as what and how tasks are shared with the BoS.
 - Finding people to serve on the Committee will be different; needs a process.
- Budget Recommendations Task
 - Christine will Champion the task. The Staff role for Invasive Plant Management should include Jesse Wingo (Natural Resource Specialist for Parks) who is already working on invasive plant issues; however, to date, no funding for the role has been included in the County budget; the position needs a dedicated funding source for Invasive Plant Management and several volunteers. It was suggested that the County consider hiring seasonal help and identify some employment benefits. Christine has previously submitted a letter to the BoS and would consider updating the letter and resubmitting it.
- Other Tasks
 - Wildlife Corridors - Leah Task Lead, Mike support

- Stream Health Ordinance (tbd)
- Riparian Buffer Overlay (tbd)
- Consider adding promoting the ACE program as a Committee task

10. Follow Ups:

A. Wildlife Corridors

- Leah briefly shared that the I-64 overpass at Afton (Virginia) is on hold.

B. Biophilic Cities

- Kaleb reported that the task is stalled; he suggested that there needs to be a plan for UVA students who will be participating.

11. Old Business

- The draft of the Staff generated NHC Annual Report is due in September; Scott asked for any additional input. Scott said indicators and achievements from the Work Plan may be included to supplement the Annual Report.
- Normally the Staff report includes Committee member monthly meeting attendance, work performed and/or completed, and the state of the County's biodiversity.
- Scott said the Committee may also submit its own report.
- It was further suggested that Committee members could provide a short input (3-minute limit) to Supervisors during regular meetings. Rob proposed to develop a different approach to regularly communicate with the BoS.

12. New Business

- None

13. Adjourn

- Leah motioned to adjourn (a second is not required); Rob adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Note: Next NHC meeting will be held again in Room 235 on October 3, at 5:45pm. The committee meeting will be in-person.