

**Minutes of Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee (NHC) Meeting
February 20, 2020 – Room 235**

Committee Members: , Christine Putnam, Emily Luebke, Nancy Weiss, Lonnie Murray, Peggy Cornett, ,

Absent: Michael Rodemeyer, Kennon Williams

Other Attendees: Kate Mallek, Rick Barnett, Sydney ???? , ???? Hoffman

Staff: Scott Clark

There was a quorum of five members present, and Christine called the meeting to order at 5:30. Visitors were welcomed and they introduced themselves.

Lonnie moved approval of the minutes of the January 2020 meeting, and Peggy seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 5:0.

Chair's Report:

The Chair's report focused on preparations for the Committee's annual report for 2019, which should be presented to the Board of Supervisors in April. Christine planned to complete drafting of the report with input from committee members, and Scott would arrange for time on the Board agenda.

Old Business:

- The proposed Champion Brewery to be located adjacent to the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir, as discussed at the previous meeting, is no longer an active proposal.
- The Committee thanked Nancy for drafting and sending the letter regarding additions for Albemarle County in the Virginia Outdoors Plan, and discussed follow-up with TJPDC.
- The NHC's letter has been sent to the Board in support of the pawpaw as the state fruit.

Follow-ups

- Native Plants & County: Lonnie has been involved in Facilities & Environmental Services discussions of trials of new, more suitable plants species for the existing green roof on the County office building.
- Scott provided an update about the new Natural Resources Manager. The County has hired Kim Biasioli, who will be the Committee's staff liaison starting in March.
- Biscuit Run Park: Nancy has met with County Parks & Recreation director and has an upcoming meeting with the new volunteer manager. The plan is to have a discussion of establishes principles for trail work.
- Light pollution: Christine attended the recent meeting discussed at the last NHC meeting
- Update on Google Driver ownership: Emily has this underway, and will send instructions when everything is complete
- Member outreach to BOS: Christine and Nancy are working on this.
- Important Sites updates: Lonnie pointed out that it will be important to schedule trips soon to check sites for spring ephemerals, as well to check rock-outcrop sites.

New Business:

- Artificial Turf: Lonnie moved and Peggy seconded to appoint Christine and Emily as a subcommittee to work with the Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee and to draft a letter on alternatives to artificial turf on behalf of the NHC to the Board of Supervisors. The measure passed by a vote of 5:0.
- Chesapeake Bay Act: Lonnie gave a presentation on Resource Management Areas as defined and applied in the Chesapeake Bay Act and how they might be used to supplement the stream buffers currently required in the County's Water Protection Ordinance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30. Next meeting date is March 19th.