

**Minutes of Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee (NHC) Meeting
July 16, 2020 – Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

Committee Members: Christine Putnam, Emily Luebke, Peggy Cornett, Michael Rodemeyer, Kennon Williams, Kate Mallek, Lonnie Murray

Absent: Nancy Weiss

Other Attendees: Tom Olivier, Rod and Maggie Walker (Blue Ridge PRISM), Ruth Douglass, Gary Koenig

Staff: Kim Biasioli, Margaret Maliscewski, Carolyn Shaffer

There was a quorum of seven members present, and Christine called the meeting to order at 5:35.

Welcome to new member, Kate Mallek. Visitors were welcomed.

Michael moved approval of the agenda, Peggy seconded. Approved by a roll call vote.

Michael moved approval of the minutes, Peggy seconded. Approved by a roll call vote.

Follow-ups:

- Important Site Visits and Updates
 - Kim visited Lickinghole Basin in April. Viewed a pair of bald eagles on the nest.
 - Christine, Peggy, and Kim visited Blenheim Grassland. Re-seeded by Dominion after pole replacement. Bamboo encroaching.
 - Christine, Peggy, and Kim visited Tufton and viewed the fameflower site. Impacts from grazing animals. **Action Item:** follow up with foundation and request protection measures.

New Business:

- Christine, Nancy, and Kim met with new Chief of Parks Planning from ACPR, talked about volunteer opportunities. Kim had a follow up meeting with the ACPR Planning and Coordination Team to discuss NHC opportunities in county parks and implementation of BAP. Focus on Biscuit Run Invasive Species Management Plan and education/invasives control at Charlotte Humphris.
- Discussion of Sugar Hollow. Joint ownership and management; overuse issues and hemlock die-off. County/city plans for that site unknown.
- Christine and Kim had a meeting with Blue Ridge Prism. Opportunities for education and better invasives management county-wide. Green Seattle model for organizing volunteers. Biscuit Run management plan and volunteer management in county parks.
- Kennon provided an update on his review of Darden Towe Park; desire to provide recommendations for management.
- NHC workplan discussion
 - Discussion and adoption of format with minor changes.
 - Initial discussion of first goal – management of county-owned lands. Possible opportunity to provide recommendations for Darden Towe and along the Rivanna might be provided during the Rivanna Corridor Area Plan public engagement period.

- Discussion of mowing to edge of ponds, stream buffer policy, WPO, and full adoption of Chesapeake Bay Act.
- Discussion of forming subcommittees; plan to continue discussion and review of workplan.
- **Action Item:** NHC members will review plan on NHC google drive and add revisions and comments, or provide email feedback before August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50. Next meeting date is August 20th.