

**Minutes of Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee (NHC) Meeting
September 17, 2020 – Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

Committee Members: Christine Putnam, Emily Luebke, Peggy Cornett, Lonnie Murray, Kate Mallek

Absent: Kennon Williams, Michael Rodemeyer, Nancy Weiss

Other Attendees: Rod & Maggie Walker (Blue Ridge PRISM), Leah Jung

Staff: Kim Biasioli, Margaret Maliscewski, Carolyn Shaffer, Serena Gruia

There was a quorum of five members present, and Christine called the meeting to order at 5:05.

Visitors welcomed.

Emily moved approval of the agenda, Lonnie seconded. Approved by a roll call vote.

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

Communication and Outreach:

- Website and Social Media discussion
 - New website overview by Serena Gruia from Communications and Public Engagement (CAPE). Website will be search-focused, streamlined. Content will be intentional and location may be different than before.
 - NHC members have found that search function currently provides errors or does not direct to the right documents/information. Other information seems to be buried.
 - Social media opportunities exist – NHC members can provide content to Kim to work with Serena. Consider campaigns/themes/subject matter to highlight.
 - Create Google doc to log errors, list ideas, and desired new content. Define top priorities, identify keywords to associate, links to Natural Resources Program, Native Plant page, others. Send to Serena.
 - **Action Item:** Christine will create Google Doc and share with group to get started. Kim will coordinate with Serena to make updates.
- BAP presentation to Monticello Bird Club planned for spring 2021 (Christine and Kim).
- Discussion of promoting natives at plant nurseries. Christine reached out at Snow's. Coordination with Plant Northern Piedmont Natives campaign suggested.

Follow-ups:

- Important Site Visits and Updates
 - Biscuit Run Central visit with adjacent landowner, ACPR, NHC members.
 - Discussion of invasives management, unique sites, trails at Biscuit Run.
 - Sugar Hollow – concerned citizens reporting impacts, high visitation. Awareness of among County, City, RWSA. Discussion of resources, potential for greenway plan, new parking area and other solutions.
 - **Action Item:** Draft a letter to RWSA and City – Lonnie will coordinate input via google doc.

- Avon Street Grassland – Site visit by Kim and Christine. Continued effort to communicate with county planners and others to provide recommendations and reduce impact of sidewalk project.

New Business:

- Coordination with County Parks & Rec (ACPR) – volunteers and invasives.
 - Kim met with leadership at ACPR; continued effort to coordinate on invasives management, recommendations for Biscuit Run and Darden Towe, education projects. ACPR is open to ideas and recommendations.
 - Opportunity for education project (kiosk and/or other educational materials) at Charlotte Humphris. **Action Item:** Christine and Kim to meet with ACPR staff to coordinate this project.
- Subcommittee discussion:
 - Education subcommittee – Emily, Nancy, Michael, and Christine have volunteered.
 - Policy subcommittee – Lonnie, Kate have volunteered. Lonnie will chair.
 - Subcommittees will meet in between regular NHC meetings.
 - **Action Item:** Establish a charter to set goals for each subcommittee.
- Wildlife Corridors:
 - Discussion of identification of wildlife corridors through spatial analysis; ties to BAP goals and possible upcoming presentation to the committee.
 - **Action Item:** Leah will work with Christine to organize the presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50. Next meeting date is October 15th.