

**Minutes of Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee (NHC) Meeting
February 15, 2018 – Room 235**

Committee Members: Nancy Weiss (Chair), Michael Rodemeyer, Mary Tillman, Lonnie Murray, Peggy Cornett, Dorothy Tompkins

Absent: Ari Daniels (Vice Chair), Emily Luebke, Christine Putnam

Other Attendees: Rex Linville, David Hannah, Kennon Williams

Nancy called the meeting to order at 5:35.

Rex Linville of Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) made a presentation about the land use and conservation work of PEC. He spent much time talking about conservation easements and related issues, specifically in Albemarle County. A few ideas about how PEC and NHC can help one another were discussed.

Action Item:

David will send Rex's contact information to all committee members.

Kennon Williams was welcomed. Everyone attending briefly introduced themselves. The meeting agenda was approved. Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Chair's Report. Nancy recently sent thank you emails to former committee members for their service. She sent emails to Tom Olivier, Devin Floyd, and Rochelle Garwood. No action has been taken on recognizing Tom Dierauf for his many contributions to conservation. Lonnie indicated that county committees can recognize one person per year. The committee would draft a proclamation, as they did for Mo Stevens (much of that wording was borrowed from *The Flora of Virginia*). A motion was approved to recognize Tom Dierauf.

Action Item:

David will clarify the rules about committee recognition of individuals from the community.

Nancy has created a draft of the committee's Annual Report, which will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors (BOS).

Action Item:

David will review the report and provide it before next month's meeting.

There was discussion of the need and desire to make site visits to the Important Sites. This included the desire and need to learn more about the status of the Hedgerow property and Biscuit Run Park. Devin will complete the survey work at Hedgerow that he is conducting for the County Parks & Recreation Department. Individual committee members should contact Devin about visiting Hedgerow with him. Lonnie mentioned Lake Albemarle as a site to visit soon. Some of the land surrounding the lake is owned by VA DGIF, so landowner permission is not needed before visiting.

Action Item:

Nancy will invite Dan Mahon to next month's committee meeting to talk about county parks and planning initiatives.

Action Item:

Nancy will send a Doodle poll to the committee to find a good date for visiting Lake Albemarle.

Action Item:

Lonnie will send a bulletized document to committee members with pointers about contacting landowners about visiting their property.

Biodiversity Action Plan. David hopes to have a final draft of BAP, including appendices and maps, to circulate for review by the end of the month, or possibly early March. An informational presentation is still scheduled for the BOS on April 4. David pointed out that much activity is taking place related to the Rivanna River. The river corridor planning project involving the county, City of Charlottesville, and TJ Planning District Commission will enter a new phase soon. The Pantops Master Plan update process has begun, and informational business cards about the process were handed out. BAP will include a generalized map of Important Sites along the Rivanna River, as it is one of three focus areas identified in the BAP. Given all this, and the prospect of maps being produced that include general locations of Important Sites county-wide, he thinks it is important to begin contacting landowners.

Notes from staff. David mentioned there may be a request coming soon to increase the number of acres in Albemarle County on which biosolids can be spread. He has very little information now, but will stay informed. A public meeting by VA DEQ would probably be necessary before amending a permit to approve a step like this.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40. The next committee meeting is March 15.