

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

Committee Members: Nancy Weiss (Chair), Michael Rodemeyer, Mary Tillman, Lonnie Murray, Dorothy Tompkins, Emily Luebke, Christine Putnam

Absent: Ari Daniels (Vice Chair), Peggy Cornett

Other Attendees: David Hannah, Dan Mahon, Ruth Douglas, Matt Smith, Kennon Williams

Nancy called the meeting to order at 5:35. Visitors were welcomed, including Matt Smith and frequent attendee Ruth Douglas. Kennon Williams arrived shortly after the meeting began. Dan Mahon of Albemarle Parks & Recreation Dept. would arrive later during the meeting to talk to the committee.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Chair's Report. Nancy thanked all committee members for being willing to work outside of the committee meetings. She noted that Biscuit Run is not one of the committee's Important Sites, even though Avon Swamp, a small site, overlaps part of the park. Lonnie commented he would like to see all County Parks that have natural heritage resources be included as Important Sites.

The 2017 Annual Report, which will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors (BOS), was briefly discussed. Emily corrected two typo errors in the final draft. The report will be on the consent agenda at the April 4 BOS meeting, when a presentation on the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) will be made.

Action Item:

David will send the corrected Annual Report to the County Clerk.

There was discussion of the final draft of BAP and the review process. BAP was made available to the committee and others on 3/9. A few individuals have given feedback, and a few have indicated they have started reviewing. David feels good about the number of people who will be reviewing. He encouraged people to focus on three areas during review: the maps, the landscape analysis section, and the goals and recommendations. He will have less time to devote to BAP moving forward.

Committee members can help with finalizing BAP and related materials. A work session with the BOS has been scheduled for July 5, which means all materials must be final and provided to them by early June. Some of the remaining needs are identifying the goals and recommendations to prioritize, creating an Executive Summary, selecting pictures or images to add to the report, creating a cover/title page, and help with the final formatting and structure of the Word document. Devin Floyd has offered to make some of his/CUH photographs available for use.

There was discussion about the need to identify priority goals and recommendations and begin working on an Executive Summary. The content for BAP will hopefully be finalized by late March or early April, assuming no major problems or issues requiring group discussion are raised.

Action Item:

Everyone will identify their Top 10 priorities as goals or recommendations from BAP, and share with everyone.

Action Item:

After everyone submits their Top 10, David will use Doodle poll to set up a meeting to discuss the priorities and begin working on the Executive Summary.

Dan Mahon of Albemarle County Parks & Recreation Dept. made an informal presentation to the committee. Topics included Biscuit Run park, Hedgerow and other future parks, Rivanna River corridor, priorities for the Parks & Rec Dept., and greenways in general.

Action Item:

David will send maps of Biscuit Run to everyone, showing the resources identified in the 2010 report from VA DCR-Natural Heritage Division.

Nancy began a discussion about the need to contact landowners of Important Sites. Andrew Walker created a spreadsheet with parcel & landowner information about all the parcels that overlap Important Sites. Personal contact, rather than form letter, should be made when possible, especially with landowners the committee has talked to in the past. Lonnie has the most history among current committee members with contacting landowners. Some data exists about the past history of site visits and landowner contact.

Action Item:

David will send the new spreadsheet to Nancy, who will begin working on how best to use and organize it.

A site visit to Lake Albemarle was set for March 26, meeting there at 5:00. Nancy will contact the birding community to learn more about what is known of Lake Albemarle. The Native Plant Society is having a walk on the Old Mills Trail, home to an Important Site, on 4/21.

Action Item:

David will make sure that proper public notice about the site visit is given.

Nancy announced that Ari Daniels is moving soon and will be resigning from the committee. Ari hopes to co-present with David at the April 4 BOS meeting, but cannot make a firm commitment. Nancy will plan to take his place. Committee members who are available were encouraged to attend the afternoon meeting. A motion was made and approved to have Christine take Ari's position as Vice Chair of the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45. The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 19. Nancy will be out of town and Christine will chair the meeting.