

**Minutes of Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee (NHC) Meeting
April 19, 2018 – Room 246**

Committee Members: Christine Putnam (Vice Chair), Michael Rodemeyer, Emily Luebke, Peggy Cornett, Kennon Williams

Absent: Nancy Weiss (Chair), Mary Tillman, Lonnie Murray, Dorothy Tompkins,

Other Attendees: David Hannah, Norman Dill, Kim Swartz

Christine called the meeting to order at 5:35. Visitors were welcomed and the meeting agenda approved. Kennon has been appointed a member of the committee.

Emily Luebke gave a presentation about vernal pools, focusing on sites in Albemarle County and describing the wildlife that use them. It was a very interesting and informative talk that generated many good questions.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved. David and Michael described the presentation made to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on April 4 about the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). They then discussed the status of the priority recommendations from BAP. Lonnie, Michael, and David met on 4/18 to discuss them. Nine people submitted their “top 10” ideas.

Action Item:

David will create a draft list of recommendations for group review.

David discussed the status of BAP and completing it. Maps are almost complete, Andrew Walker is putting final minor edits in place. BAP Appendices are complete except for references to page numbers in BAP. BAP itself needs a little more editing, David is working on that. A cover page for BAP is needed, and pictures/illustrations could be used to enhance BAP. Those may need to be worked on after the work session with BOS on July 5. Status of the Executive Summary is to be determined. It will include the priority recommendations and some maps, but the text is yet to be drafted. Timing is becoming critical, as all materials for the July work session must be finalized by early June. David will be on vacation from 4/30 through 5/11.

Action Item:

Christine, Emily, and Kennon will look into pictures and illustrations for using for the cover page and possibly in BAP.

Action Item:

David will make all BAP materials available for perusal on the web page before he leaves on vacation. Committee members and volunteers will review the draft recommendations and view other materials for errors or inconsistencies.

Important Sites were discussed. Volunteer Matt Smith is creating a website that will allow viewing the sites with real estate information and other data. This will facilitate contacting landowners of Important Sites, which remains an important task. Important Sites in the Rivanna River corridor and those identified as high priority in BAP are the most important to work on in the short term.

Action Item:

Peggy will make staff of Monticello aware of the Important Sites at Monticello.

Michael described the recent site visit by some committee members and others to Lake Albemarle. Emily described a recent site visit to Old Mills Trail with Center for Urban Habitats to establish vegetative sampling plots. Emily and David talked about CUH's offer to focus one day a month on vegetative plots at Important Sites. Devin would like one or two committee members to serve as volunteers and liaisons between the committee and the sampling work. Emily offered to fill the role for now, as she has already been involved. Everyone was very excited about the offer and the benefits it will bring.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30. The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 17.