

**Minutes of Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee (NHC) Meeting
May 17, 2018 – Room 235**

Committee Members: Nancy Weiss (Chair), Christine Putnam (Vice Chair), Michael Rodemeyer, Emily Luebke, Peggy Cornett, Mary Tillman, Lonnie Murray

Absent: Dorothy Tompkins, Kennon Williams

Other Attendees: Kim Biasioli, Thomas Baker, David Hannah

Nancy called the meeting to order at 5:30. Visitors were welcomed, everyone introduced themselves, and the meeting agenda approved.

Kim Biasioli, Va Department of Forestry, gave a presentation that focused on the agency's conservation easement program. DOF currently holds 9 easements totaling 1834 acres in Albemarle County. They hold an easement on the property on Bucks Elbow Mountain that contains a Va DCR-Natural Heritage conservation site. Kim provided landowner brochures and other information from DOF.

The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was discussed. No edits or suggestions for any BAP materials were made during the two weeks David was away on vacation. So we will move forward with the BAP material as is. Items still to be completed are the Executive Summary, including priority recommendations, and a cover page for the reports. David also wants to add a small number of pictures to BAP, but suggested the committee develop a new report/publication after the BAP process that will be educational and informative, geared toward the general public, more user-friendly and less technical than BAP, and include lots of images and graphics. There was agreement on this idea.

Mary shared information about executive summaries that she has researched – appropriate length, content, suggestions, etc. David will take the lead but work with Mary to draft the Executive Summary. David met with two coworkers earlier in the day to review the draft list of priority recommendations. The draft was perceived as overly ambitious. The list needs to be shortened and reorganized to include timeframes for completing the recommendations. Some of the recommendations will require funding or other resources that will need to be requested from the Board of Supervisors. We need to have accomplishments, make sure we can deliver on any “promises” in the recommendations.

Action Items:

- David will edit the draft list of recommendations and circulate for group review.
- Mary and David will meet next week to discuss the Executive Summary.

Emily created a draft cover page for BAP, which was displayed for everyone. Members should provide feedback to her. She and Christine are willing to work on the cover page.

Action Item:

David will send his ideas for the BAP pictures Emily, Christine, and Kennon. He will set up a meeting to review available photographs and discuss the cover sheet.

There was discussion about the July 5 work session with the Board of Supervisors (BOS). BAP and all related materials for the work session must be submitted by June 15. The presentation and requests of the BOS should be made by staff, rather than the committee. BAP will be described as a product that

was developed by staff in consultation with and under the advisement of the NHC, and with the full endorsement of the NHC.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved.

There was general discussion of site visits, Important Sites, and the web page created by Matt Smith. Topics included the 3/26 site visit to Lake Albemarle, the 4/21 walk at Old Mills Trail by the Native Plant Society, Emily's visit to Old Mills Trail with Devin Floyd, and Devin's offer to conduct vegetation sampling one day a month at Important Sites.

Action Items:

- Nancy will contact Devin to confirm and clarify his offer of vegetation sampling.
- Lonnie will send a link to the Google drive document for providing information from site visits.
- Lonnie will complete his notes about vegetation from the Lake Albemarle site visit and post on the Google drive.
- David will send a link to the Google drive document that reports on the Lake Albemarle site visit.
- Nancy/David will locate the list of birds compiled by Jim Nix during the Lake Albemarle site visit.
- Lonnie made a motion, and the committee approved it, to evaluate the inclusion of Biscuit Run and other county parks as Important Sites in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40. The next committee meeting is scheduled for June 21. Andrew Gast-Bray and Dan Mahon of Albemarle County are planning to attend. Nancy will not be able to attend. Ches Goodall, ACE Program Coordinator, plans to attend the July 19 meeting.