

**Minutes of Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee (NHC) Meeting
January 19, 2017 – Totier Room 235**

Committee Members: Lonnie Murray, Christine Putnam, Peter Hatch, Rochelle Garwood

Absent: Nancy Weiss, Ari Daniels, Peggy Cornett, Manuel Lerda

Other Attendees: David Hannah, Tom Olivier, Ruth Douglas, Dan Bieker, Leah Jung

Lonnie initiated a group discussion at 5:40, without a committee quorum. The biggest topic for the evening was reviewing the draft outline of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). While David made copies of the outline for everyone, Christine talked about walking the trails around Ragged Mountain for the first time over winter break, and thinking about opportunities to use signage for education. A conversation followed about the difficulty of getting funds to pay for signage.

The draft BAP outline was discussed, including the need for committee members to decide what role they would like to play in developing the BAP. Some items from the discussion include:

- A report summary and proposed actions will be critically important and the most widely read documents.
- We should try to keep the full report as brief as practicable.
- We should rely on existing information and materials in developing the report.
- We should rely on partners and other organizations for some content (e.g., Blue Ridge PRISM).
- Lonnie will begin working on sections IX.A and IX.B of the outline. He will also work on section IX.G, though the content may blend into other sections of the report.
- Ruth will begin working on section IX.C of the outline.
- Tom will begin working on some of the introductory sections of the report, though he will have more time to devote in March.

The Invasives/Climate Change subcommittee will meet soon and make a progress report at the Feb 16 full committee meeting. Some subcommittee members are meeting soon with Lori Chamberlin of VA DOF to discuss invasive forest pests and (hopefully) how they may be impacted by climate change.

Dan updated the group on the status of Ragged Mountain. He continues to feel that proposing biodiversity protection at the public drinking water reservoirs is an idea to we should advocate to the Board of Supervisors. Absent a quorum, we couldn't take an official position on this, or get too detailed about possible language for the county code.

David reported that Ragged Mountain and Sugar Hollow came up for discussion during the evening session of the January 4 BOS meeting. He encouraged everyone to listen to the discussion, which is accessible on the county's website. The BOS committed to making the topic an agenda item at a future meeting. Mark Graham is coordinating a meeting among some county staff to discuss the issue and provide information to the BOS. David will be at the meeting and will relay the NHC's interest in the topic, and the idea of adding biodiversity protection to the ordinance. It is unlikely that the BOS will address the issue before May or so, due to a focus on passing a budget.

Christine had to leave at 6:30, and the meeting ended at approximately 7:30.