

**Minutes of Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee (NHC) Meeting
November 16, 2017 – Room 235**

Committee Members: Nancy Weiss (Chair), Ari Daniels (Vice Chair), Lonnie Murray, Christine Putnam, Peter Hatch, Peggy Cornett, Rochelle Garwood

Other Attendees: David Hannah, Andrew Walker

Nancy called the meeting to order at 5:35. The October minutes were approved.

Chair's Report. Nancy has continued to recruit new members for the committee, and encourages everyone else to continue as well. She expects four visitors at the next meeting in December. Three of them will likely apply to join the committee, and the fourth person may as well. Dates for the December meeting were discussed, and we will meet on December 21 as regularly scheduled.

David and Andrew discussed the GIS landscape and connectivity analysis they have conducted to date for the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). Andrew walked through the data and analysis with a powerpoint presentation, showing a number of working maps. He gave an overview of the three areas of the county that will be a focus: Rivanna River corridor, northwestern portion of county (including Shenandoah National Park), and Southwestern Albemarle Mountains (using the Important Site as the basis). Committee members had good observations, comments, and questions, and generally approved of the work.

Christine reported on a good meeting she had on 11/13 with Dan Mahon of the county's Parks & Recreation Department. Matt Smith was also in the meeting. Dan seemed aware of the committee's Important Sites, and discussed wildcrafters as a threat in parks. The committee discussed the possibility of developing a "plant rescue" process for surveying and harvesting plants and seeds from areas that are about to be developed. Wintergreen has such a process in place.

Nancy summarized the outlook for the next several meetings. December will include meeting 3 or 4 potential new members. January will include preparing for a presentation about BAP to the Board of Supervisors on Feb 14. Rex Linville will talk to the committee at the February meeting. Emily Luebke will talk to the committee about vernal pools at the March meeting.

David summarized the current status and next steps for BAP. Eight county staff members (all planners) recently reviewed the first draft of BAP and provided comments. No major issues or concerns were raised, and much of the feedback will be useful. A point that several people made was to focus on the big ticket, high priority items and recommendations we want to stress. BAP has so much information and recommendations that it would be easy for our primary messages to get lost or diluted.

Much editing needs to be done before sending a second draft of BAP to the committee and some outside reviewers. Narrative about the landscape and connectivity analysis needs to be developed too. David wants to focus on finalizing the report content, and then circle back to finalize the final product itself (e.g., clean up references, include artwork, look at styles, etc.). An executive summary will be critical, and should be developed as soon as the report content is finalized. Lonnie suggested some

outreach to the community about BAP following the Feb 14 presentation to the county Board. Maybe TJPDC would host such a meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35.