

Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee Meeting, 2014.12.01

Present: Rochelle Garwood, Lonnie Murray, Tom Olivier, Tom Torrance.
Planning Commission Liaison: Karen Firehock.
Albemarle County: Scott Clark.
Public: Ruth Douglas, Andrew Walker.

Flag Layer. Scott reported that the flag layer was nearly complete. The intern was cleaning up some aspects."

Landscape Committee.

Dec. 16th meeting follow-up.

Minutes from last month were approved.

Budget Discussion

Tom put forth a draft budget request that includes one quarter full-time staff support.

We should make the point that a lot of what has been done has been achieved with volunteer hours, and achieves cost savings.

Lonnie suggested Native Plants as another budget item that helps promote the relevance of the NHC. Support for County native plant efforts including restoration & TMDL, as well as the Guide. Printed educational materials could be included as an example activity under education, and use the \$1,000 donation previously received. Lonnie will expand #3, Education Subcommittee, to include.

Add a Justification Piece. Add some additional connection to the current Comp Plan. Send some example language talking about Northern Virginia; Arizona; Asheville--other communities that are comparable. Show that we are actually behind. Anne will send some examples. Karen suggested making the connection to enhancing the urban areas.

Karen could have a student work on some additional information starting in January--they have a 40 hour externship.

We are aiming to have this done by the end of the year; send info to Tom within a week.

The Conservation Guide that mirrors "After the Storm" (about stormwater) might be an interesting piece to consider.

Our support for parks is one of the ways the NHC has provided value to the County.

Bioblitz at Ragged Mountain. We'd like to get involved. Anne sent a response to Chris Gensic.

Spring Field Trips.

It's time to start looking at where we'd like to go.

Andrew Walker, QGIS presentation. Part of Karen's class.

Next meeting: January 5