

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee
5:30 p.m., April 13, 2015**

Present: Peggy Cornett, Karen Firehock, Jeremy Glode, Lonnie Murray, Tom Olivier, Tom Torrance, Ruth Douglas (Visitor), Michelle Prysby (Visitor). Staff member Scott Clark was on vacation.

The meeting began with introductions, because of the presence of new Committee member Jeremy Glode and visitor Michelle Prysby.

No minutes of the March 2015 meeting were available for review.

Various hikes were discussed. Peggy reported postponing a hike at Monticello. Tom Olivier reported that he had written to the Calhoun family, regarding permission to visit their Fan Mountains property.

A bioblitz at Ragged Mountain was discussed. Lonnie suggested use of the iNaturalist mobile application. Kinds of data to be recorded were discussed extensively.

Climbing ferns were reported at Biscuit Run and Preddy Creek. Fairy shrimp and salamanders in vernal pools were discussed.

Tom Olivier reported for the Landscape Analysis Subcommittee. Scott had indicated to him that error corrections on the forest cover layer were about completed and that a pilot installation of the flag layer would be undertaken shortly after his return. Tom reported on slope and aspect layers he had generated from digital elevation models.

Tom Dierauf had to cancel an appearance to discuss landscape characteristics of places that could support rare species.

The state of development of the FY 2015/2016 county budget was discussed, including funding prospects for the ACE program and the proposed full-time natural resources staff position in Community Development.

Ruth reported on a spring ephemeral field trip that would be held at Key West. She also noted she was not receiving communications from the NHC Google group. Lonnie indicated he would fix that.

The meeting adjourned.