

Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee Meeting, 2015.05.04

Present: Chair Lonnie Murray, Tom Olivier, Rochelle Garwood, Peggy Cornett, Tom Torrance, Anne Bedarf. Planning Commission Liaison: Karen Firehock. Albemarle County: Scott Clark. Public: Ruth Douglas.

April minutes approved. Lonnie will look for March 2nd meeting minutes - there was a weather issue.

Flag Layer.

- Has all of the areas identified by the Biodiversity Work Group; steep bluffs, etc.
- Scott will do a training session.
- The reviewer/planner then sees the identification. Staff's job will be to figure out what the reason for the flag is and then make a recommendation for the next step.
- No doesn't necessarily mean no...it may mean not assessed.
- Focus will be on legislative reviews such as open space agreements, special use permits, etc.
- Will be on the internal County GIS.

Discussion of how the general public could use the information. We want to work with landowners to ensure they know what they have and we can provide options for conservation tools.

Update from Landscape Committee

First major step was to find and map the forest cover in the County. Most of the errors have been corrected. Scott has a few more corrections to make, but it's getting very close.

Suggestion to look at ground truthing a few sites.

Tom looking at connectivity. We should look at keeping large sites connected. He can do a preliminary assessment to look at what the potential is.

Staff Position Guidance

Committee members should start tracking their hours. Anne sent out a Google spreadsheet for this purpose available at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RLAK0cl3fVfwIM98aOzNmaBy7MHroSmtiS5h2sUDg0/edit?usp=sharing>

- Focus on: Albemarle County Conservation Plan as an Action Plan
- Ensure we are getting the most value out of voluntary conservation measures with NHC support, including but not limited to landowner outreach and focus on stream buffers

Bioblitz

Ragged Mountain is coming up May 16th. Will use INaturalist.org application. We can all be entering information such as field observations into the site. **Please help Lonnie with prep and actual site visit!**

Would the NHC members like to see any additional fields added? Let Lonnie know.

Site Visits. Please see the Google spreadsheet for these:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10wbqwikDDcia5W0c8dfZn_hogCgcl3x-On9JMh3dwIM/edit?usp=sharing

Monticello Bluffs will be May 21.

Next Meeting:

June 1.

From July-Sept, Anne will not be able to attend and we'll need an alternative secretary.

PLEASE USE THE GOOGLE DOCS FORMAT!

(Can copy previous notes to create a new doc)