

**Minutes of Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee (NHC) Meeting  
December 3, 2020 – Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

Committee Members: Christine Putnam, Nancy Weiss, Peggy Cornett, Kate Mallek, Emily Luebke, Lonnie Murray, Michael Rodemeyer, Bruce Gatling-Austin

Absent: Kennon Williams, Leah Jung

Other Attendees: N/A

Staff: Kim Biasioli, Margaret Maliszewski, Carolyn Schaffer

There was a quorum of eight members present, and Christine called the meeting to order at 5:34.

Welcome to Bruce Gatling-Austin, new NHC member.

Member introductions and re-introductions.

Michael moved approval of the agenda, Peggy seconded. Approved by a roll call vote.

Michael moved approval of the minutes, Nancy seconded. Approved by a roll call vote.

**Follow-ups:**

- Important Sites updates
  - Arrowhead – Kim visited the site with David Hannah. Wavy leaf basketgrass observed on the forest road in seed.
  - No other Important Site Visits.
- Charlotte Humphris Education Initiative
  - Christine working with ACPR and CAC to move forward Plants Map labels, kids playscape, and Kids in the Park trail brochures.
- Subcommittee Updates
  - Education Subcommittee:
    - Standing meeting date is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 4 pm.
    - Charlotte Humphris project is ongoing.
    - Exploring landowner webinar focused on Conservation Focus Areas, cost share opportunities, and BAP.
  - Policy Subcommittee:
    - Charter completed. Peggy moved to approve charter, Christine seconded. Approved by a roll call vote.
    - Standing meeting date is 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 5 pm.
    - Policy Subcommittee meeting discussion topics included:
      - Sugar Hollow;
      - Light pollution – desire to review existing policy and identify demonstration sites, develop recommendations for policy updates;
      - South Fork Rivanna DEQ Meeting – Benthic TMDL;
      - Parcelization, issues with new roads;
      - Limiting parcel size in the rural area;
      - Transfer of Development Rights;
      - Lonnie has created a spreadsheet of potential conservation policies; and
      - Need to prioritize topics; align with current staff projects.

- Wildlife corridor project update
  - Kim shared maps and initial exploration of potential demonstration project sites in Southern Albemarle Mountains.
  - Wildlife corridors group (Kim, Christine, Leah) met with Bridget Donaldson from VDOT. The group is looking at connectivity focal points from the BAP and riparian crossings of 29 from Red Hill to the county boundary.
  - Good opportunities exist to improve passage with existing structures, direct wildlife to existing structures, and tie into scheduled replacement of structures.
  - Kim will present to VSWCC in December. VSWCC can provide recommendations and expertise to help inform a project.
  - Further exploration of additional sites is planned. The group is working with VDOT to understand ROW activities and permitting for camera traps.
  - Potential for larger project with a number of smaller project sites.

**Other Matters not listed on the Agenda:**

- Charlottesville Tree Commission Report
  - Albemarle does not have a Tree Commission.
  - Discussion of maintaining/restoring tree canopy in the Development Areas.
  - Natural Resources Program Workplan and BAP both include recommendation for an urban forestry program. Intersects with Climate Action Plan as well.
  - Topic is added to Policy discussion spreadsheet and can be added to a future agenda for further discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59. Next meeting date is January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021.