

CVNLA Board
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2020

The board of the Central Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association met on August 11, 2020, at 5:30 pm, in the shop of Bartlett Tree Experts on Oakview Ave.

In Attendance:

Alec Selz, President
Cambridge Mattice, Vice President
Elizabeth Fogel, Treasurer
Matthew Brinckman, Director
Laura Shumm, Executive Secretary
Sean Proietti, Secretary (took these minutes)

Agenda Items:

1. Dues and Renewals Check-In:
 - a. Laura went over the few organizations we are still missing dues from. General discussion of who to reach out to at those businesses and organizations.
2. New positions on CVNLA Board:
 - a. Introductions made and new roles stated as listed above
 - b. Members need to have a current picture on file for CVNLA website
3. Change of Address Needed
 - a. We were forwarded a check for insurance overpayment from Joel Koci. We need to update our address with Erie Insurance.
 - b. It has also come to our attention in setting up Elizabeth as Treasurer that we have a CD available at the bank, should we choose to claim it.
4. **CVNLA Picnic:**
 - a. Picnic was postponed from June until September due to Covid-19 pandemic. Discussion commences whether to have the picnic in September, and whether to resume monthly meetings this year.
 - i. Currently no catering or other contracts have been entered into, although we are able to get catering if needed

- ii. The first speaker for the regular meetings is from out of state and likely can't travel
 - iii. We will need to ask about outdoor venues for regular meetings to promote social distancing and help people feel safe.
 - 1. Lewis Ginter is unavailable on Tuesdays, regular meetings will need to change to Wednesdays
 - iv. Determination is made that meetings should be set up one at a time and as needed for fall season, instead of booking all meetings now.
 - b. **Due to continued uncertainty about the pandemic, and the varying levels of comfort of membership and the general public, unanimous support of the board is achieved for canceling the CVNLA Picnic this year, and using a September membership meeting at an outdoor venue as both a working meeting and a catch-up opportunity for members. We will make the determination at this meeting how often to have regular meetings through the rest of the season.**
5. **September 9th Membership Meeting:**
- a. This meeting will need to take place outdoors, two options of venue are Lewis Ginter and Colesville Nursery
 - b. We will need to communicate to membership that the picnic is canceled, and this will be a working meeting where members can voice their opinions on meeting schedule going forward.
6. General Issues Related to Membership Meetings Going Forward
- a. The question of whether to have a virtual option for the meetings is raised, but is unlikely going to be popular among the technologically-averse who largely comprise our field.
 - b. The question of whether members are going to be missing out on Certified Horticulturist credits normally gained at the meetings is raised, but the question relies on whether VNLA is going to require continued education for the 2020 calendar year, and is thus unanswerable as of yet.
7. Winter Symposium Discussion:
- a. General questions of whether this will be a virtual event. We will need to talk to Kristin [at LGBG?] to make the call since the event is a joint venture.
 - b. Regardless, we will need to decide soon since it is time to secure speakers
 - c. Someone points out that MANTS is canceled next year
 - d. Many people use the symposium to recertify for VDACS, but the question arises whether VDACS will be requiring education credits for this recertification cycle.
 - e. Alec offers to reach out to Ed Olsen with Henrico C.E. to ask about the need for a recertification day.
 - f. Brief discussion shows support for a virtual-only symposium.
 - i. Should the symposium be live, or a webinar? Live would allow people to interact and discuss in real-time.

- ii. How would a live program have a backup, in case of tech mishaps?
Are we relying on all speakers to be able to connect with no issues in front of such a large audience?
- iii. Go 2 Webinar is suggested as an alternative to Zoom.
- iv. Elizabeth points out that LGBG already has a good framework for setting these up since the education department has been doing a lot of video work this season.
- v. An audible sigh of appreciation for this fact ripples through those present, as none of us are qualified to make decisions on the merits and drawbacks of different technologies.
- g. Question over which speakers to invite
 - i. If event is virtual, we could potentially invite international speakers, since we would not have to pay travel expenses.
 - ii. No commitments to asking particular speakers are made. Participants all commit to thinking about what speakers they'd like to see, but many details for the event are still up in the air.
- h. Closing
 - i. Final check-in to make sure there are no other questions about renewals, which there aren't.
 - ii. Short discussion that we need to make sure all of our meeting minutes are made available in case of an audit. I will need to send this meeting's minutes to the group, and Elizabeth can recover meeting minutes from last year.
 - iii. Meeting is adjourned.