

Minutes of TNPS Board Meeting of Tuesday, September 10, 2024
Zoom meeting

Meeting commenced at 6:00 pm Central Time

Karen Hill noted nine board members present and introduced guests of Shelley, Tim Kaltenbach, Leslie Gunn and Jessie Gunn.

Karen Hill offered the Minutes of the June 8, 2024 Annual Meeting for approval. No additions or corrections were made.

Motion to Accept the Minutes was tendered by Kim Sadler.

Motion seconded by Mitchell Kent.

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

(4:29)

Kim Sadler presented the Treasurer's Report

Kim states she made calls to accountants for a review of the TNPS accounting and books, and couldn't find an accountant to do a review, but she did find a Quick Books expert. This expert charges \$100/hour. She was very helpful to Kim. They spent three hours at Kim's house together. This person is learning our NeonPay system at no charge to us in order to help TNPS.

Kim went on to say that TNPS is in "Rock Solid" financial condition, and tendered the Statement of Activity document. In a review of the Statement Kim found that it was off by \$480 "to the good", so the tendered Statement is a Draft and not the final version.

(6:40)

Kim states the Annual Meeting at Roan Mountain State Park in June ended up inadvertently generating an extra \$1,500, so that amount will go toward the costs associated with the Annual Meeting of 2025.

Kim donated several copies of the Limestone Cedar Glades booklet to TNPS and the sale of these have generated \$430.

\$500 in interest has been earned on the CDs since last reported. The checking account now holds around \$14,500. Kim wants to keep a \$10,000 balance there, so \$4,500 will be moved.

(8:40)

There was a problem with the new bank debit cards; both were compromised even though one had never been used legitimately. Both have now been cancelled. Sue Bible volunteered that internet usage can be turned off and on easily with the Regions debit card.

(11:22)

OLD BUSINESS

Education Outreach:

Mitchell Kent discussed the Crossville Birds Bees Bucks & Trees event. They had 800+ attendees. TNPS picked up a number of new memberships and sold several books. It was considered quite successful.

The Chattanooga Master Gardeners of Hamilton County will have a Fall Festival on Sept 28th.

(14:20)

Karen Hill spoke of a College Grove event for “LivGolf” where Leslie Gunn gave a presentation with plants from her garden. “LivGolf” was very pleased and made a sizeable donation to TNPS. They asked that the amount of the donation remain undisclosed.

Leslie and Jessie Gunn have agreed to help with the Nashville Region for Education Outreach.

Karen told of a Paw Paw festival to take place in Chapel Hill on the 19th.

(19:22)

Field Trips:

Bart Jones reported that he’s working on the list for next year and already has several planned. He’s always looking for suggestions for locations. October is the deadline for ideas.

(20:39)

Native Plant Seminar Speakers:

Karen Hill reported that there will be 3 more seminars for this year. She already has a number of speakers to start for next year.

(21:45)

Grants 4 Native Plants:

Karen Hill reported that 9 applications were received for Grants 4 Native Plants. Three of them were rejected because they did not meet the standards we are looking for and explains the rejections. One application was rejected because it was for a family garden, only accessible by the family. Since the purpose of the Grant is for educational purposes it was rejected. Two other applications were tendered without all of the information needed. When told that additional information was needed they never responded. Six other applications were tendered as completed and were granted. These were all for schools. Each school has a TNPS mentor assigned and has an Action Plan. Each school received a copy of the TNPS book and a copy of the Winter Twigs book.

(30:00)

Several of the school grants were offered in memory of Colonel Chaplin Russ Ragon. When Colonel Ragon died, many gifts were made to TNPS in memory of the Colonel, amounting to around \$2,000. In memory of her husband, Margaret Fletcher, wife of Colonel Ragon, agreed to fund Grants 4 Native Plants every year in April of each year in the amount of \$2,000. Karen will look for mentors for next year.

(33:56)

Nominations

Bart Jones reported that all positions have been filled except two. The bylaws set out that the positions are declared to be filled if there is not a contest for the position.

The filled positions are:

President: Mitchell Kent

Vice President: Tim Kaltenbach

Secretary: Sue Bible

Ass't Secretary: [open]

Treasurer: Kim Sadler (incumbent)

Ass't Treasurer: Leslie and Jessie Gunn, together

The new board members are: Mary Priestly, Larry Pound, Ken Rea

Directors on the ballot for next year are: Allan Trently, Bart Jones, and Anne Ballentine

Bart will report back about the unfilled position after making some inquiries. He thinks asking the membership at large through the newsletter might be a viable option.

(40:20)

2025 Annual Conference

Bart Jones reported that he has looked at both Pickwick and Paris Landing for the location of the 2025 Conference. The costs are about the same at each location. Field Trips at either place would be problematic but workable. Bart suggests that it take place sometime in June.

Kim, Karen and Anne talked about holding the Conference at the Memphis Botanical Garden and discussed the amenities available at the site and nearby.

Bart requested that the date and location of the 2025 conference be finalized by the end of this year.

(44:30)

Dennis Horn suggested Henry Horton State Park for the 2026 meeting. That state park's amenities were discussed. Mitchell Kent endorsed using a state park for the meeting.

(50:00)

NEW BUSINESS

New UT Contract for Vascular Plants of TN & TN/KY Plant Atlas

Joey Shaw has requested a change in the funding for the Licensing Fees for these book projects. He wants to move future proceeds to the UTC Foundation Account, which supports both the Atlas and Spring Pilgrimage. The proceeds from the sale of the First Edition will continue to go to TNPS. He agreed (on behalf of UT Press?) that TNPS can

continue to purchase the Atlas copies at a 50% discount. The royalties will go toward the Licensing Fees for the Atlas.

(59:35)

Dennis Horn was able to provide some background information regarding the history of the funding for these projects. TNPS contributed \$8,000 for the Fifth Printing of the Checklist, which was the predecessor of the Flora book. When the Flora book was published TNPS contributed \$5,000 to UT so that the book would retail at \$50 rather than for \$90, and this is why TNPS receives a 50% discount on purchases.

(1:01:13)

The Winter Twig book and the Univ of KY: we contributed \$5,000 for this publication as well, for our 50% discount on purchases. Karen thinks the contract may have been between the Flora committee and the Press, and not TNPS.

(1:04:00)

Karen will create a Memorandum of Understanding that sets out these agreements.

(1:05:48)

Insurance Options

Bart Jones thinks he might have a copy of our old Waiver form, which he will provide. Karen relates that other Native Plant groups had trouble with getting insurance coverage because their Liability form was not adequate, in that it did not cover the liability of volunteers that lead hikes. It was agreed that there also should be some coverage for board members and the executive committee.

(1:11:00)

Tim K. expects there is a very low level of jeopardy because TNPS has no employees. Tim's main concern is if an attendee would be injured on a hike and blames TNPS. Dennis thinks he has a copy of the Waiver that is required by the University of the South for hikers that go into Shake Rag Hollow.

(1:15:25)

Transitions of duties/projects to new officers/directors

These will be accomplished by way of Zoom calls in the future.

(1:18:00)

Additional New Business

Shelly discusses Collier Preserve park in Powell TN. She provides some background on the land. When it was given by Bob Collier, it was stipulated that it be devoted to native plants. Shelley relates that her committee at the park has planned for plants, tools, etc and estimates it would cost about \$630 to accomplish their plan. This is one of the few remaining areas of river cane. The U of TN has completed a water conservation project on this site as well. The preserve is discussed on the website LegacyPark.org. They handle the finances for contributions, etc for this preserve. Since this is located in the

town where Susan Sweetser lived, the grant can be provided in her memory. Karen will talk with Alan Sweetser regarding this.

(1:25:05)

Karen entertains a Motion to supply a \$630 grant to this preserve. Anne Ballentine moves. Sue Bible seconds that Motion. Motion passed. (1:28:20)

(1:28:38)

Aprele Griffin has also requested a grant. It is for an area of native meadow in Hendersonville near the walking trail. She would be able to source the equipment needed and the seeds. She estimates the following: Herbicide - \$1,250; Seeds - \$1,250; Signs - \$1,000; Gravel for a path - \$1,000 for a total request of \$4,500

Karen relates that we have never funded anything like this and it is a very large ask. Discussion leads to the decision that more documentation is needed regarding what other funding she has sought from businesses, banks, others. It is not clear who owns the land Aprele is speaking of.

(1:34:49) It is moved by Bettina and Seconded by Kim to table this request until TNPS receives more information about this project.

(1:35:47)

Karen relates that a Letter of Support signed by TNPS has been requested by James Moore (Chip) in support of a Prairie Restoration. The site is at the TN Fire Services and Codes Academy southwest of Murfreesboro. He is looking for Letters of Support for further assistance in its development.

It was agreed that Karen can sign a letter of support for this project.

(1:40:00)

Jo Bricchetto has been doing the TNPS Social Media. She is asking for us to hire a Social Media co-ordinator. It is agreed that this person will NOT be an employee of TNPS.

Jo thinks devoting one hour of time a day would be the necessary requirement to keep Instagram and Facebook up to date daily. Anne B. relates these people are generally not expensive, maybe \$100-200 a month. It is suggested we appeal to the membership by way of the newsletter to find a coordinator for this. We would need someone with a level of Native Plant expertise.

The idea was suggested to contact the other Native Plant societies on social media and ask them what they do.

JoAnna's new book, How a Robin Drinks, was discussed.

It was suggested that we try to secure Margaret Renkel as a speaker.

(1:50:56)

Karen asks everyone to consider what our organization would do with a \$10,000 donation.

(1:51:50)

Karen discusses putting together a TNPS history. Bart adds that Anita Heilman (?) has collected some of the history of TNPS as well.

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, via Zoom

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm CDT