

CATS ZOOM Board Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2021

Attending on call: Barbara White, Robin Hanes, Rachel Keen, Michelle Cormier, Kathy Nepote, Tim Maywalt, Penny Kasierlian, Martha Orton, Toine Wyckoff, Libby Gretz, Mark Zollinhofer

President Barbara White opened our first CATS Board meeting of 2021 welcoming all and introducing newly elected Board officers, Robin Hanes President-elect and Michelle Cormier Treasurer. They will be joining Board President Barbara White, Secretary Toine Wyckoff and Past President Rachel Keen.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Secretary: Toine Wyckoff

Corrections were made on-line and approved.

President's Report: Barbara White

Barbara reported that 52 members had signed on to the December ZOOM Membership Meeting. The voting process for new officers was completed in an easy and efficient manner. Each Committee Chair gave an over view of their committees' activities this past year. With 9 months of restrictions due to COVID-19, it was noted how remarkable all the good work that was accomplished and the projects that stayed surprisingly active. For outdoor projects, the success was smaller groups of members wearing masks and maintaining safe distances. For other committees, ZOOM meetings allowed members to gather and carry on their business in a safe manner.

The final updated version of the Organization Document has been sent to Board Members along with the descriptions of duties of the committee chairs. Gratitude was expressed to Dorothy for her perseverance in getting this major update completed. This issue will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Barbara thanked Rachel for mentoring her this past year as President-Elect and for her creativity in holding CATS together during the past year of COVID.

Barbara has the wooden member name tags for those who do not already have one as well as the 2020 leaf pins for those who recorded at least 12 hours in TIF. These will be passed out at the first in-person meeting.

Past President: Rachel Keen

Rachel had no remarks to make.

President-Elect: Robin Hanes

Robin had no comments today other than to thank folks for their support.

Treasury Report: Michelle Cormier

Board members received the December Treasurer's Report from Sandy Holtz via email and it was approved.

Total CATS Assets on 12/31/2020.	\$23,725.35
SunTrust Checking Account Balance of 12/31/20.	3,923.24

Michelle met with Sandy several days ago and received all the files. She and Barbara have plans to meet at the SunTrust Bank and get new credit and debit cards. Michelle proposed that CATS purchase the most recent version of Quick Books. She has much experience with Quick Books and sees it as a far easier method for simplifying spread sheets and reporting monthly transactions. Purchasing Quick Books in CATS' name will allow a less complicated transfer of financial records to a different Treasurer. The Board voted unanimously for the purchase of Quick Books.

Penny reminded Committee Chairs that their budgets need to be submitted to Michelle by January 18 in order to be presented to the Board at the February meeting.

CATS Liaison to CTC: Mark Zollinhofer

In December Mark provided CATS Board members a copy of a CTC comprehensive document on the vital importance of Charlottesville trees. CTC had planned to present this report to City Council in December however, due to personnel issues in the City, CTC's presentation was delayed. As of now, the plan is to formally submit the report to the City Council by close of business 1/08/2021. Paul Josey will deliver a power point presentation on 1/11/2021. Mark will let CATS know if/when this meeting take place.

Projects: Kathy Nepote

35 people did most of project work in 2020. Wide open spaces easily afford social distancing. Coming up in January are a few projects:

1/14/21 Crozet Park-Pruning activity

1/18/21 NorthEast Park-remove invasives

New sites being considered-Charlotte Humphris Park

Cats has been contacted by TNC for possible partnering to work at NorthEast Park. Projects decided not to partner with any groups for the next 3 months.

Tree Sale: Robin Hanes

Robin has no specific dates for a spring tree sale but wanted to make sure the Board is supportive of having a "hands free" tree sale as we did in the fall for CATS members only. A specific date will be decided after the next projects meeting. A concern was expressed as to the size of trees sold at this sale, but it was agreed that since Tree Stewards would be purchasing these seedlings, they would know how best to care for them.

Next projects meeting 1/13/21

Communications Report: Penny Kasierlian Martha Orton

Penny welcomed Martha as co-chair of Communications. Martha refreshes the CATS Facebook page and as a Trees Virginia Board member keeps our members informed and updated with activities of Trees Virginia.

There has been one mailing of the January/February Tree Basics classes and the response has been good. The new Tree Steward Training Manual has been added to the website.

At this time, there are 144 CATS members, and 71 have recorded hours- 55 of those had over 12 hours.

Education Report: Tim Maywalt

Member meetings, with speakers, are scheduled for the next 4 months and Tree Basics classes have schedules in place for the next 6 months. More information can be found on the CATS website. There has been a request made at Ivy Creek for meetings of Education committee, Tree Basics classes and membership meetings when in person meetings are permitted. Request for Board meeting space at VDOF has also been made. The Tree Steward training class would use Ivy Creek for field days and VDOF only for a couple of meetings. Inside time would be for no more than an hour or so to meet and greet.

Preparation for the Tree Steward training class continues with a hopeful delivery of the program in the fall.

OLLI-Phyllis Johansen

Phyllis and a work group (Tom Wild, Martha Orton, Rachel Keen Kathy Nepote Allen Ingling) are forging ahead in their preparation for an OLLI class in the spring. This is turn has spurred an interest in Education for a photo library. There will be a photo work group meeting January 7 on Zoom. Anyone interested should contact Tim.

Unfinished Business:

CATS ZOOM Pro Account-Tim Maywalt

Presently we use ZOOM accounts of 1-3 people who in turn are responsible for scheduling every CATS meeting. With a ZOOM Pro Account, 10 CATS members could host ZOOM sessions. This feature would allow the workload to spread around rather than one person scheduling 5 meetings a month. This program requires a dedicated email address. Martha has set up an email account for presidents of CATS which could be used. The cost is \$150/year (on sale now for \$120) which would be in the administration budget as it will be used by all committees. Proposal made and Board voted unanimously in favor of the purchase. Helen will set up meetings to help educate those who will use this new ZOOM account.

New Business:

CATS Waiver-Tim Maywalt

Tim proposed amending language in #9 of the CATS' waiver. A copy of the changes in this paragraph was included in the President's agenda which had been emailed to all.

The Board agreed to changes Tim requested. There will be an Education sub group meeting Thursday which will address this issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Toine Wyckoff