



Education Committee Meeting

August 24, 2021 at 10:00 AM by ZOOM

Attendees:

Tim Maywalt, Phyllis Johansen, Carolyn Burgess, Mary Spear, Kathy Nepote, Donna Vinal, Rachel Keen, Robin Hanes, Penny Kaiserlian, Phil Stokes, Peyton Williams, Pam Dorland

Minutes of the July 13th 2021 meeting were approved.

The following table summarizes ACTION items noted in this month's minutes.

Reference	Action Description	Contact	Due Date(s)
Updates/Communications	Decide at Board meeting if/what merchandise we want to have available at graduation	All	October Board meeting
Status Reports/New Tree Steward Class	Remind class to sign up in TIF and start recording their hours	Class Leads	8/25
New Business/Live Tree Walks	Tree Walk Leader needed to identify trees in the buffer next to University Village	Tim Maywalt	<when is development starting?>
New Business/Survey Discussion	During class registrations, poll attendees for best time to have a 20-minute Zoom to go over upcoming activities	Carolyn Burgess and registration team	9/4, 9/18

UPDATES

Communications Committee:

- Do we want merchandise available for last in-person meeting of new Tree Stewards class?
- For the 2019 graduates, we gave them a hat if they were certified by the end of the class.

Projects Committee:

- Will be meeting in two weeks.
- APO (Alpha Phi Omega) wanting to know if we want their help on Saturdays. TBD by committee.

STATUS REPORTS

Member Meeting Continuing Education

- Meeting on August 26th, Rob Farrell for Tree Risk Assessment.

New Tree Stewards Class Update

- So far, we've had one online session; one live.
- New class seems like a good group. Those who showed up were collegial, enthusiastic, and asked a lot of questions on the tree walks. Emily's video was good prep for the walks. All went well.
- Feedback included that the "quiz was hard" and there was a MOODLE glitch. Emily addressed both issues with the class and noted that this was our first year using MOODLE.
- Per Phyllis, only 6 new class members have requested access to TIF. We will remind them to get access to record their hours.
- Next session September 4th meets at Azalea Park for pruning.

OLLI Update

- CATS has committed to do another class in Spring 2022. The title was changed to "Seeing the Forest Through the Trees".

Tree Basics Classes

- September 9th: Trees & Wildlife (Zoom) - Kathy
- October: Fall Tree ID (evening) – Emily; Fall Tree Walk (*field activity time and place TBD*) – Emily

NEW BUSINESS

Live Tree Walk Series (Fall)

- September; both public walks and CATS walk. All walks are full: Pen Park, Botanical Garden of the Piedmont, UVA Campus. CATS members need to sign up via TIF for tree walks.
- There is a new development coming next door to University Village. Peggy Van Yahres referred someone to CATS about a woodland that is part of the University Village subdivision that is adjacent to an area about to undergo development. The property owners are concerned about protecting the woodland trees and would like CATS to take a walk with them to identify the trees that may be at risk. Peggy can act as liaison with the City Tree Commission.
- Phil volunteered to lead a tree walk in November (location TBD) to identify tree by bark and twigs. Also, Phil offered to host a walk on his property in March when wild flowers and trees are blooming.

Discussion: Best times and days for CATS activities (per Surveys)

- Both current and new class members were surveyed for preferences on when (weekdays/weekends, mornings/afternoons/evenings) to hold activities and meetings.
 - 28 of 32 new class members responded. Results showed Saturday mornings were preferred.
 - Current membership preferred weekday mornings. (Membership meetings currently average about 40 attendees.)
 - Current meetings/projects are a mix of weekdays and weekends. Maybe we should keep to that pattern.
- Member meeting times are sometimes driven by the speaker's schedule; they usually prefer weekdays.
 - We can tape Zoom meetings and post them to the website so folks can watch on their own time.
 - Consensus is to keep Member meetings weekdays via Zoom and post them.
- Committees will decide what works for them.

Discussion: How can we help transition Students to Active Members

- Suggestions for how to engage new members and provide them with sufficient information to help them determine their level of participation on committees, workdays, etc.

- We need to balance encouraging new participation and being “pushy”. Current members could try to engage in more informal “getting to know you” chats during classes.
- Provide a list of upcoming events to the new class and encourage them to come and see what we do.
 - Remind them that class labs are very similar to projects, so they can get a feel for a workday.
 - During upcoming class check-ins, ask students when would be the best time to have a 20-minute Zoom to review upcoming events.
- Based on completed Interest forms, we could contact class members individually and personally invite them to committee meetings and activities and answer questions.
- We have class Leads this year who can encourage participation, e.g., act as Mentors.

Next Education Committee meeting date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 – 10:00am via ZOOM; *no meeting in September.*

Respectfully submitted by Pam Dorland.