

Meeting Minutes

Native Species Commission
August 24, 2018 at 10 am
100 W Water Street, Dover, Delaware
First Floor Training Room

Minutes approved on (by a vote of): October 17, 2018 by all present

Members Present

Sarah Cooksey
Jeffery Downing
Ashley Kennedy
James McCulley
Michael Petit de Mange
David Saveikis, Interim Chair
Robert Thornton
Christopher Heckscher
Faith Kuehn (arrived at 10:45)
Katherine Holtz
Lori Athey

Members Absent

James White
Janice Truitt
Michael Costello
Tracy Surles

Administrative Staff

Jennifer Childears, Administrative Specialist III

Public Present

Jerrod Taylor
Terry Harvey
Shelia Smith
Alice Mohrman

Call to Order

Mr. Saveikis called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Additional introductions were made as new commission members were in attendance. A majority of members present had taken their oath of office, which allowed for a quorum.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The commission reviewed the minutes of the July 31, 2018 meeting. There was not a quorum of eligible commission members that had attended the last meeting to approve the meeting minutes, so no motion was made or approved.

Unfinished Business

Commission Governance

Elect Chair

Mr. Saveikis opened to floor to nominations for chair and vice-chair of the commission. Mr. McCulley requested that both the environmental/educational groups and the commercial interest groups be represented.

Mr. McCulley, made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thornton, to nominate James White as Commission Chair, contingent upon his approval (Mr. White was not present at the meeting to accept nomination). The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kennedy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cooksey, to nominate Robert Thornton as Commission Vice-Chair. Mr. Thornton accepted the nomination. Mr. Petit de Mange made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cooksey to close the nomination. The motion carried unanimously. The motion to have Mr. Thornton as Vice-Chair also carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Thornton requested that Mr. Saveikis continue running the meeting as the Interim Chair.

Establish Rules of Order

Ms. Cooksey made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCulley to adopt Robert's Rules of Order, recognizing the Commission can suspend the rules as necessary during Commission meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

Need for Bylaws

The question was raised by Mr. Saveikis as to the need for Commission by-laws. After discussions surrounding quorum and voting scenarios, it was requested that voting rules be written out for future reference and to avoid confusion. Formal by-laws are not needed at this time. If clarification on more items are needed going forward, the matter of by-laws will be readdressed.

New Business

Commission Actions

Rank top ten ecological extinction task force recommendations

Ms. Childears reviewed with the commission the results of the top ten priorities ranking assignment by Commission members. It was evident that the commission feels strongly about legislation being introduced to ban the sale of invasive species in the state. Before that can happen, however, the commission will need to make a decision on which species are invasive species or non-native and must also consider animal species in the narrative. At least three definitive lists would need to be made: 1) Invasive Species; 2) Non-Native Species that are on sale in Delaware; and 3) Native species. Bill McAvoy, Division of Fish & Wildlife botanist, will be invited to the next commission meeting to discuss his vast knowledge of flora with the commission. Dr. Douglas Tallamy, University of Delaware professor, was also mentioned as someone to meet with the commission. Finally, a point was made to include the Delaware Nursery industry in discussions as their businesses would be effected by any legislation.

After further discussion, the commission decided that creating a framework on how they intend to create the list of species to ban would be best at this time. Points were made by multiple commission members about the need for educating the commission, the public, and the General Assembly about invasive species first before asking for legislation to ban them.

Mr. Saveikis suggested a three-fold approach to action: 1) Determining education aspects; 2) Assessment of invasive species to have a legitimate, defensible list; and 3) Reviewing ordinances that speak to invasive or native species.

Mr. McCulley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Petit de Mange, to create a Legislative and Regulatory Summary subcommittee for the purpose of compiling laws and regulations regarding how undeveloped habitats are regulated and how developed landscapes are regulated regarding native and invasive species. Subcommittee members are Michael Petit de Mange (chair), David Saveikis, Faith Kuehn, Tracy Surlis, , Michael Costello, James McCulley, Robert Thornton, and Katherine Holtz. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Downing made a motion, seconded by Ms. Holtz to create an Education Subcommittee to compile a list of relevant educational resources and materials on native species for eventual use in educating the public and decision makers on the importance of native species and related issues. Subcommittee members are Jeff Downing (chair), James White, Ashley Kennedy, Sarah Cooksey, Faith Kuehn, David Saveikis, and Lori Athey. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCulley made a motion that the commission review and compile a list of native, non-native, and invasive animal and plant species. There was no second. The motion did not carry.

The commission requested that those members who had not submitted a top ten ranking of the recommendations, to do so.

Review Ecological Extinction Task Force recommendations currently being implemented
More members have input to share and in the interest of time, this topic was postponed until the next meeting.

Prioritize Commission next actions

Creating the two subcommittees is the start of the commission's next actions.

Public Comment

Public members spoke throughout the meeting, reminding the commission of the Delaware Nursery and Landscaping Association and other stakeholders that would have valuable input on topics discussed during the meeting.

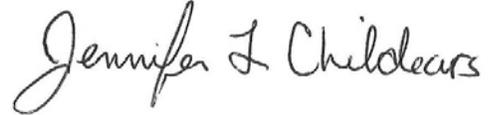
Next Meeting Date and Location

Mr. Thornton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Downing, to hold future commission meetings on the third Wednesday of every other month at 10 am starting with October 17, 2018 in the Dover area. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Saveikis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Petit de Mange to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer L. Childears". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jennifer Childears, Administrative Specialist III
DNREC, Division of Fish & Wildlife