

**Waynesboro Advocacy Committee**  
**Virginia Museum of Natural History**

2 April 2024, 100PM at Waynesboro Office of Economic Development

AGENDA & MINUTES

I. Welcome, approve minutes from March 2024

II. Update on activities

a. Detailed Design update

- Fish working group report.

III. Community

a. Lecture Series

b. Trailer updates and upcoming work

c. Community interactions

- DAR 14 March 2024
- Roundtable of Waynesboro 14 March 2024
- Riverfest 29 April 2024

d. new donor

V. Open Discussion

- Goals discussion for the upcoming year
- Trailer use, volunteers
- Advocacy

VI. Next meeting, 7 May 2024

VII. Adjourn.

MINUTES

Attending: LeAnne Binger, Tom Benzing, Faye Cooper, Maggie VanHuss, Greg Hitchin, Joe Keiper (staff), Marcus James (staff), Ryan Barber (staff)

Tom began the meeting at 1:15 pm and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Greg made the motion to approve, and Maggie seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

### I. Update on activities

Joe gave an update on the Detailed Design meeting with the fish working group.

Trout fossil cast for the design may be available. All information will be shared with the exhibit design firm.

### III. Community

The lecture series' last event of the season is on April 16th at the Wayne Theatre, featuring speaker Cole Young discussing wildfires and controlled burns. This is Tom's final episode.

Trailer updates are coming up next week, Bethany and the team will be installing a new exhibit. Plans on refreshing the trailer with updates and paint. Having an expert come by to assess and may use maintenance reserve funds.

In community interactions- Len and Joe to present potential recruits to the VMNH board. Joe will be speaking to Kiwanis in June. Investing more time and resources in the community will continue to have a positive impact. We have submitted a grant proposal to Dominion for the South River Preserve. If the proposal is successful, we will announce the project plans during the Fall Foliage Festival. The project includes making the area ADA-accessible education stations and providing 3D-printed educational info along the river map. Dwayne Jones will be our contact person and liaison with the community.

#### a) New donor information

### V. Open Discussion

Mary Poulin will be leading the volunteers for the upcoming event Riverfest, and making sure they are prepared with information about the VMNH trailer. We will be inviting people to RiverFest and circulating a volunteer sign-up sheet.

Advocacy- Ryan discussed Riverfest & moving forward with the new model of Jefferson Awards, using a more personalized model for The Center for Coldwaters Restoration and Senator Hanger. If they are not available, we will work to reschedule the ceremony.

Blue Ridge Regional Foundation may be a possible grant source to support the Wayne Theatre lecture series.

Tom informed legislators in Charlottesville about the VMNH project. He mentioned plans to send letters targeting specific delegates, including Delegate Lawford and Delegate Coulson.

End-of-year goals (Joe and Marcus) to discuss next meeting.

There are a few politically astute individuals that Joe is working on bringing to the museum.

Additionally, there are plans to organize trips and tours to promote the project and generate enthusiasm among potential board members.

One idea is to encourage LeAnn to remain on the board or possibly fill in her replacement on the board.

#### VI. The Next Waynesboro Advocacy Committee Meeting

The meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2024, in Waynesboro virtually.

#### VII. Adjourn.

Tom asked for a motion to adjourn, Maggie motioned and Greg seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 PM.