

RESOLUTION OF INTENT

WHEREAS, Albemarle County has a significant history of valuing the protection of natural resources and biological diversity; and

WHEREAS, the County's long commitment to valuing natural resources and biological diversity included the adoption of a Natural Resources and Cultural Assets Chapter in its 1999 Comprehensive Plan and the establishment of a temporary Biodiversity Work Group that developed a report and assessment of biodiversity in the County in 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors established the Natural Heritage Committee in 2005 to advise the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and County staff on applying biodiversity information to land use decision-making and supporting biodiversity education; and

WHEREAS, the County's 2015 Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 4 (Natural Resources), Strategy 4a proposes that the County develop an Action Plan for Biodiversity to protect significant areas of biological importance in the County for presentation to the Board of Supervisors for adoption into the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, County staff, working in consultation with and under the advisement of the Natural Heritage Committee presented a Biodiversity Action Plan to the Board of Supervisors at its July 5, 2018 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors endorsed the Biodiversity Action Plan and directed County staff to work with the Planning Commission to amend the 2015 Comprehensive Plan to incorporate key elements of the Biodiversity Action Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT for purposes of public necessity, convenience, general welfare and good land use planning practices, the Albemarle County Planning Commission hereby adopts a resolution to consider amending the 2015 Comprehensive Plan to incorporate key elements of the Biodiversity Action Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan Amendment proposed by this resolution, and make its recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, at the earliest possible date.