

# VIRGINIA MINERAL PROJECT

-March Report-

## *State of the Project*

The month of March has been a time of great change and uncertainty in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. Many of our daily lives have changed and the way we do business moving forward into 2020 is uncertain. Just like the broader community, the VMP has had to improvise and move forward in spite of quarantine measures. For the safety of those working with the project, many trips were cancelled, and all of the shows, lectures, and events have been cancelled or postponed until further notice.

Despite such obstacles, the VMP is dedicated to move forward and find new ways to strengthen the project and help build the foundation for the future. Over the month of March, working from home has allowed the VMP to get a better grasp of where the data is strong and weak for the classic locations being focused on for the publication. We are also working on the "Example Chapter" which will be a tangible document showcasing how each locality will be broken down and the various aspects the VMP is trying to highlight for the larger publication.

In times like this, we must remain optimistic and focused on the true goal of promoting and preserving our community. Club meetings and annual shows are where we find our happiest memories of the year, but I stress the need to stick together and find new ways to communicate and be engaged whether through social media or emails during this time of isolation.



## Friends of Mineralogy VIRGINIA CHAPTER

### *The Future of the Virginia Mineral Project: 2021*

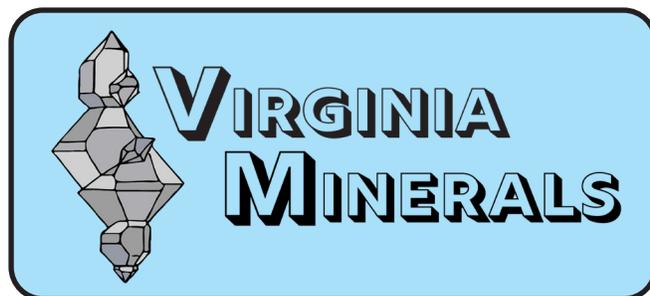
With many events postponed and cancelled, we must still look towards the future and assess the direction of the project. It's been decided to move forward this fall with the creation of a new Friends of Mineralogy (FoM), Inc. Chapter in Virginia. This means that in 2021, the VMP will no longer act as its own organization under one person, but rather a formal initiative under a new chapter of FoM.

We are now in the beginning phases of recruiting the initial charter membership and submitting applications. This does not mean that the VMP has official recognition or support of FoM until the charter and application is successful. Once that is completed, we will move forward and notify the community and begin filing as a non-profit under 501c(3) status in the state of Virginia.

If you are unfamiliar with FoM, I would highly recommend looking at their [website](#) and learning how this is the best route for the project. Organizations in FoM have been on the front of developing and undergoing projects such as what we are doing in our state. This is a big change moving forward, but we will have a team of talented individuals who will be part of this new fresh and innovative organization.

It is important to stress that the development of this FoM chapter does not overwrite the incredible community of clubs across Virginia. In fact, this new chapter will only strengthen and broaden opportunities for mineral lovers across Virginia who are interested in pursuing research and community programs under the local FoM chapter. Meetings will not be held as regularly as clubs, and you can find ways to be engaged with both organizations simultaneously. If you are interested in being involved, then please reach out to us at [virginiamineralproject@gmail.com](mailto:virginiamineralproject@gmail.com). Further information will be provided in the coming weeks!

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