

## **Minutes of the January 20, 2024 Meeting of the Greensboro Conservation Commission**

### In Attendance

Jane Hoffman, Treasurer  
Dave Kelley  
Will Marlier, Clerk  
Linda Shatney  
Chris Steel, Chair  
Peter Watkinson

### Absent

Clive Gray  
Erika Karp

Chris called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Jane made a motion, seconded by Peter, to approve the Minutes of the November 11, 2023 Meeting. Minutes unanimously approved.

### Transparency

Will and Chris reported that they had worked with Kim, Town Clerk, and Paula, Greensboro Free Library Librarian, to arrange to use the town's Zoom account and the Owl Camera at the Greensboro Free Library (GFL) to provide virtual access to Greensboro Conservation Commission (GCC) meetings going forward.

The link to the meetings will be added to the listing of the GCC meetings on the Town website calendar.

Jane will continue to post hard copies of the Meeting Warnings at Town Hall and the Library and the Post Office and Willey and will add the link on the Warning as well.

### GCC Funds

Jane reported that the GCC had Net Assets of \$957.14 after payment of the 2023 and 2024 AVCC and the donation of \$1,000 to Greensboro Land Trust for repair of the Porter Brook Trail.

Jane also reported that the GCC request for \$3,000 in funding had been approved by the Select Board. The funds will be available on July 1, 2024. See attached spreadsheet.

Jane reported on Anticipated Expenses for GCC programs and projects which included (i) a two-part Invasives program (lecture and field trip) in April and July and (ii) a two-part program at the Highland Center for the Arts (HCA) on August 17, 2024 (talk by the Bird Diva and a raptor program by VINS and (iii) three guided bird walks sponsored by the GFL and GCC in May and June.

### Porter Brook Trail Funding

Chris reported that the Greensboro Land Trust (GLT) thanked the GCC for the \$1,000 donation. Chris reported that three organizations had also contributed to the repair: Highland Lodge and Greensboro Land Trust and the Greensboro Association.

Chris discussed the Porter Brook grant which would be \$17,000 from the Recreational Trails Program. The GCC donation of \$1000.00 is part of required matching funds.

### Glover / Greensboro Trail Collaboration

Chris spoke to Peggy Day Gibson of the Glover Trails Committee about linking the Black Hills and Greensboro through Nature Conservancy Land or Mud Pond Forest or Hinman Road.

A walk through at Mud Pond Forest on the Glover/Greensboro line will include Peggy Day Gibson, Dan Kilborn of VLT and the Mud Pond Forester with a view to assessing the feasibility of linking the Glover and Greensboro trails

### Educational Programs

Will will reach out again to VINS to ask if they are available on August 17, 2024 for a raptor presentation. They had committed to the 18<sup>th</sup> but that date is now not available at Highland Center for the Arts (HCA).

Chris contacted Bridget Butler, the Bird Diva, ([birddiva.org](http://birddiva.org)). She has agreed to give a presentation on the 17<sup>th</sup> as well.

Jane will reach out to her after Will reaches VINS and confirms whether they are available on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

There was a brief discussion of the Vermont Wildlife Coalition which again is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Student Wildlife Art Expo for Vermont students in grades 7 thru 12 grades titled Winged Wonders at the Highland Center for the Arts. There was a discussion about having ten of the winning art pieces hung at HCA on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Jane and Dave sit on the Board of the Vermont Wildlife Coalition.

Dave will follow up with Keisha and Maureen at HCA about this.

### Bird Walks

Chris reported that there would be three bird walks guided by John Schweizer and Joanne Hanowski and Chris in Greensboro in May and June. The walks would be also sponsored by the GFL.

### Invasives Species Mapping and Management Project

Will reported that Mike Bald is confirmed for an invasives talk on Sunday April 28, 2024 at 3:00 PM. Mike will also conduct an invasives outdoor session sometime in July.

Will reported that he spoke to some foresters who would be willing to assist in locating locations for larger scale invasive eradication projects. Chris and Will will do a drive around with the foresters re areas of biggest concern in the spring.

There was a discussion about a 'tools lending library' which might include a sharp shooter shovel and a weed wrench and a few silage tarps. Will estimated the cost for the tools at about \$500. Will volunteered to hold and manage the 'tools lending library'.

Chris discussed the possibility of a grant from Streamwise that might enable the GCC to acquire some of the tools.

There was a discussion about the best way to publicize the invasives events and it was decided that listing in Front Porch Forum (FPF) and in GFL emails and newsletter and articles in the Hardwick Gazette and The News and Citizen and the Chronicle were the best and most cost-effective avenues to pursue.

### Pollinator Resolution

Jane mentioned that the GCC would be proposing a Pollinator Resolution at the 2024 Town Meeting. See attached.

### Vacancy

There was a brief discussion about finding a candidate to fill the one vacancy who would add a new skill set and focus to the commission with an interest in mammal tracking and conservation being one possible area building on work that other Vermont conservation commissions are progressing.

The next GCC meeting will be held March 16, 2024 at 10 AM at the Greensboro Free Library.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Jane Hoffman