

Minutes of the March 16, 2024 Meeting of the Greensboro Conservation Commission

In Attendance

Emily Cayer, Advisor
Clive Gray
Jane Hoffman, Treasurer
Erika Karp
Dave Kelley
Will Marlier, Clerk
Linda Shatney
Chris Steel, Chair
Peter Watkinson

Opening

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

Chris welcomed Emily Cayer which welcome was seconded by all Commission Members.

Chris made a motion, seconded by Wil, to approve the Minutes of the January 20, 2024 Meeting. Minutes unanimously approved.

Clive asked if the Warning had been posted for the meeting. Jane responded that she had posted hard copies of the Meeting Warnings at Town Hall and the Library and the Village Post Office and Willeys. Chris said that the Zoom link for the meeting had also been put on the Town website.

After discussion it was agreed that the Warning should also be posted at The Bend Post Office and at Smith's.

Peter suggested that we re-up the Summit Will organized last year to better coordinate conservation efforts among Towns.

Will volunteered to contact the organizations which participated last year. Chris volunteered to contact the Chairs of the neighboring Town Conservation Commissions re knowledge sharing on planned activities for the coming year.

Pollinator Resolution

Chris reported that GCC's Greensboro Pollinator Resolution was adopted at the 2024 Town

Meeting and thanked Jane for her work on the Resolution . He mentioned that he had been interviewed by Seven Days prior to Town Meeting and did a follow up interview after Town meeting. He also mentioned that Jane had done an interview about the Resolution on Vermont edition the Monday before Town Meeting.

Jane reported that Linda and she would be meeting with Emily Purdy, the GFL children librarian, to plan a pollinator program at the library for the kids.

Linda reported on attending the rally at the Capitol in support of the bill to ban certain pesticides that harm pollinators.

Chris suggested that the GCC might want to organize a 2025 program at HCA on pollinators. He will also contact Anna Kehler and Liza Keisler who are pollinator gardeners to gauge their interest in running a smaller educational session at one or both of the Memorial Garden and the Miller's Thumb garden this year as a follow-up to the Resolution.

GCC Funds

Jane reported that the GCC had not incurred any new expenses since she reported on GCC Funds at the January 20, 2024 meeting.

There was a discussion of upcoming expenses for various GCC programs and projects which will include (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.

There was also discussion about the cost of a 'tools lending library". Will estimated it would cost about \$500.

Glover / Greensboro Trail Collaboration

Chris reported that 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

Jane passed out a description of the Bird Program to be held at the Highland Center for the Arts on August 17th.

There was a discussion about the best way to publicize the Bird event at HCA 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. HCA will also be publicizing the event on their website.

It was decided that we would require registration for the event through the HCA website which Dave will arrange. We would limit registration to the auditorium capacity (300) for the Bird Diva portion of the event.

Chris volunteered to design a poster for the Bird Program.

Donations will be solicited at the programs. It was decided that all proceeds will be split 50-50 with HCA.

Jane asked Will to get an invoice from VINS for their presentation.

There was a brief discussion of the film "Beaver Believers". It was suggested that it could be shown as a stand-alone film at HCA at some point.

After discussion Peter and Dave volunteered to explore the topic how we manage beavers in Vermont a possible 2025 program. They will report back at the next meeting in May.

Erika suggested that Earth Day on April 22nd might be a good day to publicize our upcoming programs and events on FPF, etc.

Invasives Species Mapping and Management Project

Will reported that Mike Bald is confirmed for an invasives talk on Sunday April 28, 204 at 3:00 PM. Mike will also conduct an invasives outdoor session sometime in July.

Will mentioned that he and Chris plan to do a drive around in the spring with the foresters re areas of biggest concern and pinpointing locations for larger scale invasive eradication projects. Will volunteered to reach out to the foresters.

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.

Linda asked a question re how to handle poison ivy at the Lake Beach. Peter reported that pulling out poison ivy with gloves works but also suggested signage where the ivy is to protect beachgoers. Once pulled the poison ivy needs to be bagged in order to not introduce it in another location.

There was a discussion about using the Highland Lodge knotweed patch as a demonstration project for invasives management given its visibility.

Will volunteered to reach out to Highland Lodge management team of Erica Schulz and Chad Sims to discuss the possibility with them.

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. Chris designed flyers re the walks which were available at Town Meeting. Jane reported that she had posted the flyer at the Library and Town Hall and Willeys and the Village Post Office. Chris volunteered to distribute and post them as well.

Tiny Grant Application

Peter volunteered to draft and submit an application for a Tiny Grant to AVCC to purchase the tools needed for the “invasive tool lending library”. The application is due April 5th.

Wildlife/Pollinator Working Group

Clive and Nancy Hill (attending as a member of the public) reported that a meeting was held at their house attended by representatives from Peacham and Hardwick and Greensboro.

The GCC welcomed the initiative and looked forward to collaborating with it.

Jane who was on the invite list for the first meeting of the working group volunteered to stay in touch with the working group.

Other Business

Jane mentioned a book by Ben Goldfarb “Crossings” about the staggering number of animals killed on roads and suggested that might be a good topic for a talk. Emily volunteered to work on a potential wildlife crossings program and we will discuss further at the next meeting.

Chris reported that he had joined the Board of the Orleans County Conservation District.

The next GCC meeting will be held May 25, 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