

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Greensboro Conservation Commission
May 25, 2024 at the Greensboro Free Library

In attendance:

Clive Gray
Jane Hoffman, Treasurer
Dave Kelley
Linda Shatney
Chris Steel, Chair
Peter Watkinson

Absent:

Emily Cayer
Erika Karp
William Marlier

Chris opened the meeting at 10:05 am and presented the Agenda.

The Minutes of the March 16, 2024 GCC meeting were approved.

Chris mentioned that the Conservation Summit needs to be set up so that the several groups and organizations can stay connected and informed about each other's activities and plans. The action is with Will to coordinate.

Chris announced that the Glover Greensboro walk thru will take place on June 14, 2024.

There was a general consensus that the Mike Bald talk at the GFL last month was well attended and very informative and well received. The

Invasives Tiny grant which was approved will be discussed later in the meeting.

Treasurer's Report & Future Expenses

Jane distributed GCC Accounting from FY 2022 – FY 2025.

Peter pointed out that the Tiny Grant was for \$530 not \$500. Jane will correct the spreadsheet to reflect that \$30 difference.

There was discussion about the need to allocate some funds for promotion of the bird program in August at the HCA.

Wildlife Crossings

As Emily is absent the discussion of wildlife crossings will be deferred to the July meeting.

Lake Eligo's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

James LaRock, a resident from Craftsbury, who lives close to Greensboro town line, contacted Will with concerns about the plans effect on Lake Caspian. He was unable to attend the May meeting but will attend the July meeting. The Plan will be open for public comment.

Conservation Commissions – Craftsbury and Hardwick

In Erika's absence, Chris reported that the Chair of the Craftsbury Commission had resigned and that the Hardwick Commission was working on a natural resources survey.

A representative of the Hardwick Commission will attend the July GCC meeting.

August Bird Program Update

Jane reported that she had received the Bird Diva invoice and W-9 but that VINS would not issue an invoice until after July 1. No W-9 would be needed for the VINS invoice. Jane will ask Will to follow up with VINS to get the invoice.

It was decided to allocate \$500 for direct mail re the Bird Program. Dave will write articles for The Hardwick Gazette and the News & Citizen and the Chronicle. Jane will send description and photos to Dave.

Peter mentioned that the program is already listed on the HC website. Dave and Peter will discuss the details re the program with Keisha.

Bird Walks

Jane reported that the GFL listed the 3 Sunday bird walks on the GFL website and in emails to patrons. She also reported that the walks as well as the August bird program was in the Chronicle on May 15, 2024 issue.

Peter reported on the 1st walk on May 19th with about 20 people in attendance.

The 2nd walk will take place May 26th and the 3rd and final walk will take place on June 2nd.

Pollinators

Pollinator Pathways

Chris reported that Stew and Becky Arnold's property along Craftsbury Road is a likely site for a Pollinator Pathways.

The GCC would work with Pollinator Working Group to provide volunteers for the preparation of the bed this Fall and planting in Spring 2025. Clive will follow up with Auriel and Zoryan.

The GCC would be able to allocate funds for tarps and seeds to support the project.

Zoryan has been working on a map of pollinator pathways

Funky Fourth Parade

Chris reported that Liz and he will be pulling the Pollinator Steel Band float with their electric truck. Representatives of the Greensboro Community Garden will ride in the truck bed.

Jane suggested that copies of the Greensboro Pollinator Resolution be passed out along the route.

Library Program

Linda reported that a program focusing on pollinators and pollinator friendly plants will take place on July 2nd. Elaine Cole Kerr will read from her book about butterflies. Emily Purdy, the Children's Librarian, will have other books on hand re pollinators. Pollinator friendly plants will be handed out to each child to take home and plant. Plants will be provided by Bruce Urie of Stillmeadow Gardens.

Jane reported that there will also be a walk from Willey's Beach with educational signage that will be available all summer.

Invasives Program Report

Peter reported that the Tiny Grant application he submitted to AAVC had been awarded \$530 toward GCC projects to combat invasives in Greensboro.

Peter also reported that the project must be completed in a year and GCC must submit a report on the project by May 1, 2025. Peter will work with Will on this report.

The Tiny grant funds will be used to purchase tools and tarps for the Tool Library to be maintained by Will. Chris will speak to Will about purchasing the tools on his list ASAP. Two Parsnip Shovels have already been purchased.

Peter also reported that an additional report with success stories needs to be submitted as well by May 1, 2025 and that GCC needs to mention that the funds for the project were provided by AVCC.

Beaver Believers film

There was a discussion about using this film as the centerpiece of a program about beavers at HCA in the Summer 2025. Dave will talk to Keisha about securing a date for that program. VT Fish and Wildlife might be invited to provide a speaker as well as inviting the author of Eager Beaver. A GFL book club program tie-in was also discussed.

In a previous GCC meeting there was a brief discussion about reaching out to Greensboro property owners who feel that they are experiencing an issue with beavers and suggesting non-lethal alternatives such as the use of beaver deceivers. There was also a brief discussion about creating a fund to reimburse land owners for beaver deceivers.

Other Business

Chris reported on the Porter Brook Trail repair. The GCC contributed \$1,000 toward the repair project. The project did not get a grant from the State.

Chris reported that John Mackin and he fixed the bridge and the boardwalk.

It was suggested that the best plan since the environment is still in flux to put up signage re the importance of Porter Brook Trail in protecting Caspian Lake.

Chris reported that the drive around that Will was going to do with local foresters still needs to be scheduled.

Jane suggested that the GCC invite Ethan Tapper, formerly the Chittenden County Forester, to speak at the GFL about his new book "Loving a Forest". Jane and Dave will follow up with Ethan.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted:
Jane Hoffman, Treasurer