

# The Greensboro Conservation Commission

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## Minutes

General Commission Meeting  
10:00 a.m. Saturday, July 13th, 2024

### **Present**

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

### **Absent**

David Kelley, *Member*

### **Members of the Public**

Zoryan Ivakhiv-Gray

\*Remote attendees

(Technical difficulties with remote attendance will be addressed before the next meeting.)

### 1.) 10:00 - **Meeting Commences**

### 2.) Will Marlier: **Review & Approve Minutes** of the Meeting on May 25th, 2024

#### *a.) Progress on Actions*

Will Marlier informed the commission that Jame LaRock would not be attending this meeting to present his findings regarding the Lake Eligo stormwater pollution prevention plan. Chris Steel suggested that the commission **invite written testimony from Mr. LaRock**, and Will Marlier agreed to do so.

Additionally, the Greensboro Environmental Summit was briefly discussed. Many of those invited were unable to attend, so it **will be rescheduled** by Will Marlier for sometime this fall.

Will Marlier read the actions for the day's meeting, and Chris Steel requested that Zoryan Gray's item be moved up the agenda.

### 3.) Jane Hoffman: **Treasurer's Report & Future Expenses**

Jane Hoffman, attending remotely, provided a printed report of the commission's current finances. She also reported that the only outstanding expenses were 2 checks compensating Will Marlier for the purchase of tools for the invasive plant tool library, and the payment for the VINS presentation in August.

Peter Watkinson is working with Brett Stanciu to locate the missing Tiny Grant check from the AVCC. The AVCC believes it has been deposited, and has provided information regarding the check date.

#### 4.) Zoryan Gray: **NWF Community Wildlife Habitat**

Zoryan Ivakhiv-Gray, representing the Pollinator-Friendly Greensboro working group, shared with the commission his goal to register Greensboro as a "*Certified Community Wildlife Habitat*". This will provide benefits to the town in the form of publicity, programming, and discounted merchandise. It will also build off of the intention of the Pollinator Declaration brought forward by the GCC earlier this year. He requested that the GCC provide a statement of support for this effort.

Zoryan Ivakhiv-Gray acknowledged that he will be moving out of Greensboro later this year, but that the Pollinator-Friendly Greensboro working group will continue to drive this initiative.

On that basis, Will Marlier motioned that the GCC should "support" this process, which was seconded by Peter Watkinson and passed unanimously.

Clive Gray motioned that the GCC should **provide the letter of support** from a government entity required for certification of the community wildlife habitat. Erika Karp seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### 5.) Emily Cayer: **Wildlife Crossings**

Emily Cayer shared that the wildlife crossings program was off to a slow start, but that some progress had been made. She has purchased a copy of the book "*Crossings*", conducted additional research, and ordered two high-quality game cameras for ~\$49 a piece. Emily thanked Jane Hoffman for providing some informational resources on the issue.

Chris Steel reminded the commission that the town's NRI includes a section on

animal crossings and suggested placing cameras by the crossing on John Stone's property by Craftsbury Rd. **Chris volunteered to speak with John Stone about this.**

Erika Karp recommended **reaching out to the McGraths** to pursue placing cameras on their property as well.

Peter Watkinson motioned to allocate ~\$200 of the GCC's funds for **purchasing 4 game cameras** to be used for monitoring wildlife crossings. This motion was seconded by Clive Gray and passed unanimously.

Zoryan Ivakhiv-Gray shared that he believes the meadows by the Willey Beach Trail and the area surrounding the ballfield are high-traffic wildlife areas.

Chris Steel and Peter Watkinson volunteered to **follow up with the Greensboro Land Trust regarding wildlife crossings.**

6.) Jane Hoffman: **Ethan Tapper @ The HCA**

Jane Hoffman shared that Ethan Tapper will be promoting his book "*How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World*" at the Highland Center for the Arts on October 13th at 3:00 PM. She is collaborating with the Galaxy Bookshop to provide copies of the book for Ethan Tapper to sign.

As this is a GCC sponsored event, the commission will help with promoting it and **Chris Steel will provide a flyer for Jane's use.**

7.) Jane Hoffman & Linda Shatney: **Pollinator Activities @ Greensboro Free Library**

Linda Shatney passed out a written report on the recent pollinator activities hosted at the Greensboro Free Library in collaboration with the GCC. On July 2nd Elaine Cole Kerr read four of her books, flowers were observed under microscopes and magnifiers, pollinator bingo was played, and bee houses were made. All children in attendance returned home with a potted marigold flower, donated by Bruce Urie of Stillmeadow Gardens (Jane followed up with a thank you card). They used this opportunity to promote future GCC programming and other pollinator events.

Jane also reported that the final component of the Pollinator Activities at the GFL will take place this summer and fall. Emily Purdy, Liza Kiesler, and the Greensboro kids will be working on a mural of pollinators to be hung in the GFL.

The GCC was additionally involved in pollinator activity when Chris and Liz Steel towed the "*Honeybee Steel Band*" during the Funky Fourth parade. Chris Steel and Linda Shatney also represented the GCC at the Pollinator Fest on July 10th.

#### 8.) 10:45 - Chris Steel: **Pollinator Pathway**

Chris Steel reported that the original location for the pollinator pathway would not be possible. The property is located between the Greensboro Garage and the Smith household, and is held by the Vermont Land Trust and leased for haying.

Stew and Becky Arnold have volunteered their land on Cheney Lane for the pollinator pathway instead. The current plan is to start with a small bed in the NE corner of the field between the community septic and Craftsbury Road with bed preparation this Fall and planting in the Spring. Chris Steel shared that Dan Predpall is organizing the planting of flower beds in Greensboro Bend as part of the Bend Revitalization Initiative. Chris believes this will be done on August 3rd.

Zoryan Ivakhiv-Gray expressed a concern that the term "pollinator pathways" may become confusing if the Pollinator-Friendly Greensboro working group conducts a larger-scale project known by the same name. He also shared that the working group may be able to supply some of the labor and materials for these pollinator gardens.

Peter Watkinson suggested the community gardens may be a natural location for future pollinator gardens/pathways. Chris Steel responded that the potential Rural Edge project at the town offices might impact gardens at that location, and for this reason did not believe it would be a suitable place for a new pollinator garden/pathway at the moment.

#### 9.) 10:50 - Will Marlier: **Invasives Program Report**

Will Marlier reported that his visit with Rick Morrill and Dawn Morgan was a success. They identified several patches of Japanese Knotweed along Rocking Rock, Shadow Lake, and Circus Roads. They discussed prioritizing management at sites along roadways and waterways, which are more prone to rapid spreading.

Regarding this, Will brought up approaching the Greensboro Road Crew about ways to minimize invasive plant spread through road work. He recommended a different tactic than the one taken by the Dummerston Conservation Commission, which provided informational pamphlets to their road crew. Instead, **Will volunteered to contact the Greensboro Road Crew and invite a representative to inform the GCC** on what capacity the Road Crew reasonably has to address this. This approach was generally agreed to. Peter Watkinson suggested limiting cutting to only within a certain distance of driveways, and Zoryan Gray expressed interest in the planting of native species along roadways in an attempt to thwart both fluvial erosion and the spread of invasives.

Additionally, Will Marlier updated the commission on the status of the tool library. He has purchased ~\$450 of equipment utilizing the AVCC Tiny Grant. This equipment includes 2 parsnip predator shovels, 2 hand scythes, 2 silage tarps, and 1 “*Extractigator*”. **Chris Steel volunteered to approach Steve Parker (of the Mountain View Country Club) about utilizing the tool library.**

Will Marlier and Chris Steel used some of this equipment to perform the first cut on the Japanese Knotweed at the Highland Lodge. Future management practices at the site were discussed by the commission, and Will circulated draft language for signage as well as a scheduling sheet for volunteerism. **Will agreed to follow up with Chad from the Highland Lodge** about filling some of the labor needs with the Lodge’s staff. **He will also circulate the sign up sheet amongst the GCC members electronically.**

Will updated the commission on the status of Mike Bald’s second visit, intended to be an outdoor demonstration this time. It seems likely to be scheduled for Sunday, August 4th and will run ~3 hours. After some discussion the commission agreed that the Highland Lodge and Pierrette Lyman Knotweed patches would be ideal locations for those demonstrations. **Chris Steel agreed to contact Pierrette to gauge her willingness** for this, and **Will agreed to finalize scheduling with Mike Bald.**

#### 10.) 11:00 - Jane Hoffman: **August Bird Program Update**

Jane Hoffman reported that the programming for August 17th is scheduled to be provided at the HCA as planned. The Bird Diva will begin with an indoor presentation, after which the audience will be invited to the VINS presentation outdoors.

**Chris Steel and Jane Hoffman will begin the social media promotion next week** and flyers are already posted around town.

11.) 11:05 - Peter Watkinson: *Beaver Believers 2025 Program*

Peter Watkinson reported that there have been no significant developments regarding the 2025 “*Beaver Believers*” programming, and **volunteered to work with the HCA to find a time and date for next summer.**

12.) **Schedule Next Meeting & Other Business**

Chris Steel alerted the commission to a VCRD Community Discussion that is likely to be held on August 19th and requested that members make an effort to attend.

The next meeting of the GCC was rescheduled from September 14th to September 21st. Still held at the Greensboro Free Library at 10:00 AM. **Will Marlier will send new invites to the members and alert the GFL of the date change.**

13.) 11:30 - **Adjourn**