



## Minutes

General Commission Meeting  
10:15 a.m. Saturday, May 17th, 2025

### **Present**

Chris Steel, *Chair*  
JoAnn Hanowski, *Member*  
Emily Cayer, *Advisor*  
Erika Karp, *Member*  
Jane Hoffman, *Treasurer*  
Liza Keisler, *Member*  
Linda Shatney, *Member*  
Peter Watkinson, *Member*  
Will Marlier, *Clerk*

### **Absent**

*None*

### **Members of the Public**

*None*

#### 1.) 10:20 - **Meeting Commences**

#### 2.) Will Marlier: **Review & Approve Minutes** of the Meeting on Mar. 15th, 2025

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

Will Marlier led a brief review of the action items from the previous meeting's minutes. With only a few exceptions, all items were reported to have been completed. Items being carried forward will be addressed individually later in these minutes.

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

Jane Hoffman provided a brief report on the commission's financial status. Net assets as of 5/16/2025 were reported as \$1,787.46. Chris Steel reminded the group of the \$500.00

of revenue committed by Mike Kiernan of Bee the Change. Jane reiterated that the town's 2026 fiscal year started on July 1st, and that is when the \$3,000.00 committed on Town Meeting Day will be made available.

#### 4.) Will Marlier: **Invasives Program Report**

Will Marlier reported that he had been in touch with several potential contractors regarding their rates for invasive species management. Markus Bradley from Redstart Forestry quoted \$80/hr + travel and herbicide costs, although they are already booked for the 2025 summer season. Abraham Ames of Ames Ecologics charges \$50/hr although the first hour costs \$150. Luke Hardt, whom Will had already been in contact with, shared that he would need to make at least \$120/hr, and offered to attend the next meeting in order to go over any specifics with the commission. Will also reached out to Sam Perron at Northwoods Stewardship Center, and had not yet heard back. After some deliberation, Chris Steel suggested that they wait before moving forward with any of these options. Will also shared that all of these contractors assumed he was inquiring about chemical (herbicide) management without it being mentioned, likely because that is the default method of treatment at this time.

Will Marlier asked the rest of the members if they felt the commission should adopt an informal policy on whether or not it promotes chemical management, mechanical management, or some mixture of both. Chris Steel reiterated that the Mad River group has had a lot of success with mechanical management, and stated that he felt the demonstration project at the Highland Lodge was committed to mechanical methods already. Erika Karp shared that the invasive species convention she attended on May 9th featured a lot of conflicting opinions, and that she felt torn on the issue. Erika also stated that she felt townwide education and conversations needed to take place before the commission promoted the use of ANY herbicide management. Liza Keisler raised the point that far more herbicide is utilized by local farmers than the commission could ever hope to use, and that she felt targeted management of invasive species was perhaps the most ethical use for herbicides.

Ultimately the commission agreed on the following...

- Chris Steel will reach out to the Highland Lodge to see if they would be willing to share the cost of a contractor to apply herbicide to the knotweed behind their dumpsters in an attempt to see how effective/expensive the method is.
- Erika Karp will reach out to Dr. Alan Eastman to invite him to provide a presentation on the efficacy/safety of herbicide chemicals to the Greensboro public.

- Will Marlier will follow up with MacNeil to see if the road crew had expressed any interest in the proposed methods of collaboration.

#### 5.) Liza Keisler: **Pollinator Pathway**

Liza Keisler provided an update on the status of the pollinator pathway project, and shared a long list of recent expenses, proposed expenses, and recent donations for the project. These include expenses for the compost, the ram board, the starters, the seeds, and donated from Bee the Change and an anonymous local donor.

**The commission voted unanimously to allot \$1,067.00 to the pollinator pathway project.**

Liza will continue to manage and implement this project going forward, and will also look into the installation of a seed library for the site. Liza will add members of the commission to her email outreach list for communicating with potential volunteers to help implement this project.

Jane Hoffman will check with her neighbor, Stuart Lapoint, to see if he would be willing to use his tractor to spread out the compost after its delivery on Wednesday.

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

Emily Cayer reported that while she did complete and submit a Tiny Grant application to fund the camera kits, the GCC had unfortunately not been awarded the grant. Other members indicated that they felt they would have better luck with a similar application next year. Emily then shared that she had begun thinking that it would be a good idea to focus on the existing aspects of the program instead of expanding it at this time.

Emily suggested that she could provide outreach and technical assistance services for landowners who already own wildlife cameras but don't know how to use them (or upload the videos). She indicated that she would like to look into setting up a training/demonstration for these landowners.

When asked for a catchy name for the program, several members made suggestions before the group eventually settled on Will Marlier's suggestion "Neighborwood Watch".

Emily will create a highlight reel of currently available footage to be used alongside future events and while tabling.

7.) Emily Cayer & Jane Hoffman: **Moose Program**

Jane and Emily shared that the VT Wild Cats program had been delayed, and replaced by a Moose program: *VT's Charismatic Megafauna*. The presentation will be given by the biologist, Josh Blouin. The Vermont Land Trust has offered to help with raising awareness for this event, and Emily and Jane have already designed flyers. The event will be held at the Highland Center for the Arts on August 23rd.

Emily and Jane will post and distribute the flyers in late June.

8.) Liza Keisler: **Charlie Reinertson - Northern Peatlands**

Liza reported that Charlie's travel plans had changed, and that the presentation's scheduling would need to change to reflect them. The commission suggested either aiming for a late summer or mid fall date.

Liza will follow up with Charlie and Keisha (from the HCA) to coordinate and confirm a date. Liza will also provide a summary to Chris Steel who will add the event to the GCC website.

9.) Linda Shatney & Jane Hoffman: **Rodenticide**

Linda and Jane shared a long list of action items that the two plan to accomplish regarding rodenticide in the Greensboro area.

- Linda will manage tabling efforts at the Greensboro Farmers Market and the Funky Fourth. She will speak to John Schweizer about the Funky Fourth.
- Jane will draft a town wide resolution to reduce the use of rodenticide, based upon the pollinator resolution, and follow up with the Select Board to see that it is added to the Town Meeting agenda for next year.
- Jane will author an article on the topic for the Hardwick Gazette.
- Jane will submit testimony on the House bill, H.326 *An act relating to the regulation of the use of rodenticides*
- Jane will post educational information on the topic (Front Porch Forum?)
- Linda and Jane will work with the Greensboro Free Library to provide programming on the issue in early August.

JoAnn Hanowski expressed concern that this conversation needed to include viable alternatives to address rodent infestations beside rodenticide, or else it may fall on deaf ears. Other members brainstormed some alternatives, such as mechanical traps,

contraceptive feed stations (rendering mouse populations sterile), and bucket traps. Jane Hoffman indicated that she plans to look further into alternatives as part of the education and outreach effort.

10.) Chris Steel & Will Marlier: **Greensboro NRI**

Chris reported that the Greensboro Land Trust had voted to appropriate the necessary funds to contracting the updated Natural Resources Inventory for the town. In that vote, they indicated that the Greensboro Conservation Commission had offered \$1,000.00 to support the project.

Will stressed that if a payment were to the GLT in the amount of \$1k or more, it would have to be delayed until their town appropriate was available on July 1st.

**The Commission voted unanimously to support the NRI with a \$1k investment after July 1st.**

Liza suggested that the NRI was a very important resource that warranted additional outreach so that other community members were made more aware of it.

11.) Chris Steel: **AVCC Collaborative Event**

Chris reported that the AVCC had reached out to him to gauge our commission's interest in hosting a regional Conservation Commission summit to foster collaboration between nearby towns. He had indicated as much to the AVCC, and now needs to wait for further communications. The AVCC also connected with Hardwick and Craftsbury CCs who also responded positively.

12.) Linda Shatney & Jane Hoffman: **Hardwick Spring Fest & Tabling**

Rachel Kane of the Hardwick Conservation Commission had been in touch with Linda to request that we set up a table at the Spring Fest. After no member indicated that they would be able to do so, Linda volunteered to supply Rachel with flyers to distribute on the GCC's behalf.

13.) 12:00 - Jane Hoffman: **Keeping Bears Safe - Tabling & Meeting**

Jane reported that she had been in touch with Nigel Waring from the USDA's Wildlife Services, and she was able to get him set up with a table for the Greensboro Farmers Market. Jane will also invite him to attend our next meeting.

14.) Chris Steel: [REDACTED]

Chris and Jane Hoffman both reported on VNRC's Arthur Gibb Award, and how they had been putting together the application materials to submit an application on [REDACTED] behalf. Jane will share these materials with other members and then submit them for consideration.

15.) Chris Steel: **Party for Clive Gray**

Chris Steel reiterated that he will be hosting a party in celebration of Clive Gray on June 19th at 5:00 PM, and that all GCC members are invited to attend. He also reported that he had received the gift for Clive, and that it looked excellent.

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

Will Marlier shared the language he and Chris Steel had drafted to publicize in hopes of garnering public applications to the vacancy on the commission. The members widely supported the language, and approved its use for publication. Chris will post the language to Facebook, Front Porch Forum, and around public spots in town.

Will, Chris, and JoAnn Hanowski will convene to review any submitted applications.

Chris will author and post a general update on the GCC's ongoing activities, and will update his flow chart graphic for future events. Chris will also work with Hardwick and Craftsbury CC's to promote the upcoming Bridget Butler birdwalk.

Peter Watkinson will brainstorm ideas for GCC fundraising efforts that might infuse the commission with additional spending dollars, and present them at our next meeting.

The next meeting will be rescheduled for July 13th instead of the previously scheduled July 12th. Will will handle contact with the library.

16.) 12:30 - **Adjourn**