



Minutes

General Commission Meeting
10:15 a.m. Saturday, November 8th, 2025

Present

Chris Steel, Chair
Jane Hoffman(Remote), Treasurer
Emma Palumbo, Clerk
Peter Watkinson, Member
Will Marlier, Member
JoAnn Hanowski, Member
Liza Kiesler, Member
Erika Karp, Member

Absent

Emily Cayer

Members of the Public

Betsy Youngman
Kristen Lahey
Lydia Parker
Naomi Ranz-Schleifer(Remote)

1.) 10:30 - Meeting Commences

Chris Steel started the meeting by apologizing for a delay caused by technological difficulties and welcomed Lydia Parker from The Nature Conservancy.

2.) Chris Steel: **Review & Approve Minutes of the Meeting** on September 20th, 2025

a.) Progress on Actions

Chris ran through the agenda for the meeting then moved on to review action items from last meeting.

JoAnn confirmed that she had shared information on the solar powered wildlife cameras. Peter reported on the Neighborwood watch program. He shared that he and his wife had bought two wildlife cameras but had not yet connected with Emily to set them up yet.

Chris shared information about an alternative camera option that is more expensive but higher resolution.

Erika shared that she had been in contact with Todd Hardy about education opportunities about invasives. Chris shared that he had been in touch with Sam Perron of Northwoods Stewardship Center who gave an estimate about invasives at the country club. Sam has done work on invasive phragmites at Echo Lake using herbicide and produced materials explaining how he mitigates risk of using herbicide. He has offered to present to the GCC at the January meeting. Chris asked the group if they would want Sam to come to our next meeting to present. Erika expressed concern over the use of herbicides in town. Liza thought it would be good to hear from Sam to address concerns brought up by Erika. The group agreed that it would be a great opportunity to hear from Sam and learn more about his work. Erika will continue to look for educational opportunities and Chris will invite Sam to the next meeting.

Chris thanked Peter for distributing Eve Frankel's presentation to the group (from The Nature Conservancy Vermont).

Will moved action items on volunteer efforts to later in the agenda.

Peter has not yet been in touch with landowners regarding the North Shore Rd knotweed outbreak, but will do so before next meeting. He thinks it would make the most sense to get a professional to take care of this outbreak.

Chris shared that he forwarded our anti- coagulant rodenticide resolution to other towns but they have yet to confirm if they will adopt it.

Will has volunteered to submit materials for the Town Report. He has not yet submitted but has been contact with the town about due dates. He will continue to work on the report.

b.) Will elected to Board of AVCC

The GCC congratulated Will on his election to the AVCC Board.

3.) JoAnn Hanowski: **Adopt-a-Culvert Program**

JoAnn thanked Chris for all of his gis work for the Adopt-a-Culvert program. Vermont adopt-a-drain is live in Minnesota. She shared that there is a mix of people who have signed up and done the work and those who have not. She has sent out three notices to remind volunteers. She may ask for administrative rights in the Winter to allow her to sign people up herself. This is the first year the GCC launched this program and will now cost \$110/ year in future years to maintain.

4.) JoAnn Hanowski: **Town Plan - GCC Chapter on Natural Resources**

JoAnn shared that she has been attending a variety of talks to inform her more on the pressing issues the town is facing. She has attended the Craftsbury Outdoor Center speaker series which have focused on balancing conservation and housing, in addition to the August planning commission meeting which focused on affordable housing. She has also read the current town plan which seems satisfactory.

JoAnn has been in contact with Christine Armstrong of the planning commission as well as Kent Hansen. Chris shared that he believes Kent plans to share the plans for the town plan with Committee and Commission leads in the coming weeks and to hold any action on the town plan until Kent sends out communications. JoAnn also spoke to the importance of attending these talks as a commission to inform ourselves to the greatest extent, especially on issues of development and conservation.

5.) Lydia Parker: **Nature Conservancy Project**

Lydia introduced herself as the Land Protection Manager from The Nature Conservancy(TNC) Vermont. She introduced a project which includes TNC acquiring a 92 acre parcel on the Long Pond. The property has been owned by the Miller family for over 100 years and TNC has been in contact with Herbert Miller to conserve this property. TNC is requesting funding from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to carry out this acquisition.

She asked for the commission's support in introducing this project to the town at the next selectboard meeting. The group then put the following motion to a vote: that the GCC should support The Nature Conservancy's acquisition of the Miller Property for it's contribution to forest resilience and wildlife corridor connection in addition to other benefits. The group unanimously gave their support to this project and will take steps to voice their support to the town. Chris volunteered to email MacNeil in advance of the meeting and Emma volunteered to appear at Wednesday's selectboard meeting to communicate the commission's support.

3.) 10:25 - Jane Hoffman: **Treasurer's Report & Member's Contact List**

a.) AVCC dues

Jane offered a report on the GCC's current financial position. As of October 2025, net assets were at \$3394.16. Town appropriation is \$3000. She indicated that there had been 2 generous donations in addition to donations from the Moose Program. She also indicated that we had paid the year's AVCC dues.

Will quickly reported on the AVCC regional meeting which occurred the second week of October. He reports it was a great meeting with attendance around 50 members and robust conversation among groups. This was the first regional meeting the AVCC put on and will serve as a precedent for future meetings around the state. The group is excited that our commission was represented at this pilot meeting.

Jane asked that all members review the member's contact list they received via email and contact her for any needed corrections.

7.) Jane Hoffman & Liza Keisler: **Summer Speaker Program**

Jane and Liza have not yet had a chance to coordinate the Summer Speaker Program. Members then discussed preference on date, place, and time. Members shared that in the past this program would usually occur on a weekend day with a preference for the afternoon. Jane and Liza will try to coordinate with Keisha at the HCA on availability for the Wild Cats and Northern Peatlands events in our summer speaker series. Members agreed that the studio room where the Moose Program took place is preferable.

8.) 11:15 - Liza Keisler: **Pollinator Pathway Report**

a.) Little Things Film

Liza has not yet had time to plan the Little Things Film, which is a film the commission hopes to do a screening of at HCA. She expressed she would like to prioritize the Northern Peatlands exhibit first before focusing her efforts on the film.

Liza shared that there has not been much movement in discussions with Charlie Reinertson. She has emailed back and forth with Keisha trying to nail down a good time for this exhibit. Liza awaits communications from Charlie about what dates he would be available in 2026. Charlie would like to leave his exhibit at HCA for about a month. Peter shared that the studio room could be a good space if the main exhibit area is closed. Peter

also mentioned he could help out with coordination in December if things have not moved along. Liza was gracious for the extra help and thinks he would be a great person to organize this

Liza shared plans to weed the pollinator garden after the meeting. She shared the garden is doing relatively well considering the drought conditions of the past summer. She mentioned that another seeding will need to take place. She then discussed the different between seeds and plugs, highlighting that plugs are far more successful than seeds as evident through the current condition of the garden. The group discussed and decided that ordering plugs would be the most successful decision despite a slightly higher cost. Peter pointed to the success of the current plugs in the garden and supported the decision to order plugs rather than facing multiple rounds of seeding. Peter then made a motion to allocate up to \$500 for the cost of plugs for the bend pollinator garden, to which all members approved. Liza will inventory what items the wholesalers have available and send all receipts to Jane.

9.) Emily Cayer: **Neighborwood Watch Program**

Emily is absent from the meeting. This item will be deferred until next meeting. Chris will send out the camera info to members. The commission will be resubmitting the tiny grant for cameras. Chris asked the commission their thoughts on the following plan: link videos played at the Moose Program from wildlife cameras around Greensboro under the condition that personal identifiers will be edited out. The commission discussed. Peter and Jane were slightly concerned that locations could still be identified but felt more assured that personal identifiers would be removed. The group put the motion to a vote: to post the video from the wildlife cameras on the GCC website without personal identifiers. All members approved. Emily will edit out the identifiers and Chris will post to the website.

10.) Will Marlier- **Invasives Program Report**

Will met with Ames Ecologies about the invasive sites at Highland Lodge and Smiths. Abraham Ames said he would be willing to take on this project next season. Will then reviewed what the process would look like: A stem injection of glyphosate in mid-late 2026 which consists of cutting, stem injecting, and transporting the cuts to the Highland Lodge in the case of Smiths.

In terms of permitting, the GCC will not need to acquire a permit for the Highland Lodge since Highland Lodge plans on paying Abraham Ames directly. In the case of Smiths, the GCC will need to acquire a permit since Smiths is not paying Abraham Ames directly.

Chris said that Smiths may be willing to pay and then get reimbursed by the GCC. Will is going to explore that option.

Will shared the quoted costs which is about \$1000 and \$800 for Highland Lodge and Smiths respectively. Since the Highland Lodge plans on paying 50%, the GCC would be paying a total of about \$1300. This costs would most likely be included in next years budget. Will is to request a written proposal from Ames Ecologic.

Erika raised concerns over the GCC piloting chemical means to deal with invasives citing it goes against the Pollinator resolution passed in 2024. Liza responded that she did not believe the plan for a pilot ran counter to that resolution as it focused on pesticides and invasive species representing a major threat to natural habitats and pollinators. Will pointed out that this method of herbicide treatment poses little to no threat to pollinators and in fact helps to reestablish their preferred native flowers. Other members agreed. The group passed a motion to approve \$1300 of the budget to be allocated to the work of Ames Ecologics to treat the invasive outbreaks at Smiths and the Highland Lodge. All members present approved except Erika.

Chris and Will introduce members to the Bee App, which is an innovation developed to garner volunteers for events. Chris has spoken to Saul Costa (representative from the Bee app) and he has offered to come to the commission's next meeting to speak about the app.

Chris and Will have spoken with Jed Feffer re acquiring his volunteer list. Will plans to integrate Jed's volunteer list to the GCC's list. Chris mentioned that in future meetings volunteer efforts should be a separate action item due to its importance.

11.) Chris Steel: **Natural Resources Inventory**

The first phase of fieldwork associated with the NRI update approved earlier this year has been completed by Jesse Mohr. Further work will take place next year. The NRI update is being led by the Greensboro Land Trust and supported by the GCC. Members praised the existing NRI highlighting its detail and mapping. Liza shares it would be helpful to do a Front Porch Forum Post acknowledging the NRI. Liza has agreed to post a link to the document on Front Porch Forum and make sure to acknowledge the Land Trust's effort in establishing the inventory.

12.) Jane Hoffman: **Rodenticide Program**

a.) Anti- Coagulent Rodenticide Resolution

Jane thanked Chris for help with drafting the Resolution as well as designing the flyer. She will plan for everyone to start sending the resolution around in Jan 2026. She has had a lot of requests from other towns for the resolution. Will and Chris suggest it will need additional public outreach. Chris mentions the GCC should focus on outreach to the summer community and suggests working with the Greensboro Association (GA). Naomi Ranz-Schleifer shared that the GA can promote the resolution and to send any communications to their email address. Further efforts can be made at town meeting such as posters on the table.

13.) Schedule Next Meeting & Other Business

The next meeting is scheduled for **January 10th, 2026 at 10:15** at the Greensboro Free Library. Emma will plan to schedule the meetings for the 2026 calendar year.

14.) Executive Session- Vote on New Member

Motion to recommend Betsy Young to the selectboard to fill the vacant GCC spot: unanimously approved by all members present. Chris to communicate recommendation to selectboard.

15.) 12:15 - Adjourn