



## Minutes

Special Commission Meeting  
10:00 a.m. Monday, June 1st, 2026

### **Present**

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

### **Absent**

*Emily Cayer, Advisor*  
*Liza Kiesler, Member*

### **Members of the Public**

*Paul Fixx*  
*Anne Stevens(Remote)*

- 1.) 10:00 am- **Meeting Commences**
- 2.) **Review & Approve Minutes** of the Meeting on May 16th, 2026

Chris moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on May 16, 2026.

Jane seconded the motion, and all members present voted in favor.

- 3.) **Review and Approve** updated [GCC Town Plan contribution](#) following GPC review

JoAnn updated the Commission on the GCC's contribution to the Town Plan following a review by the Greensboro Planning Commission (GPC). Following a meeting with Kent, no major changes were made, though some language adjustments were incorporated.

Chris solicited feedback from members, resulting in the following discussion and agreed-upon changes:

Peter suggested changing a sentence to read “Since the last Town Plan was completed in 2019, two important studies have been conducted.” (replacing the word “completed” where “conducted” sits)

Peter raised a question regarding whether specific land blocks should be designated as "forever wild" or under "current use stewardship." JoAnn clarified that the GCC's role is not to recommend specific zoning laws or conservation solutions (which rests with the GPC), but rather to clearly identify high-priority areas and their ecological purposes.

Betsy and Erika suggested adding a more detailed map to better orient readers. Erika questioned what existing mapping could clearly illustrate the wildlife corridor and high-priority blocks. She raised concern over the effects this mapping would have on landowners within high-priority blocks. Chris suggested using the Highest Priority Connectivity Block mapping referenced from Act 181. Chris offered to provide this detailed map, and JoAnn agreed to incorporate the Act 181 mapping into the document.

Peter noted that the GCC could utilize grants funded by the Greensboro Association (GA) Lake Fund for water quality control projects. Chris supported this, noting that the GA is already identified as a partner in the document and highlighting their past support of the Stream Wise program. Will added that the GA has pledged funding to two projects already: a riparian buffer planting project in Porter Brook and the continuation of the Lake Wise assessment program. Will offered to advise the GCC in his capacity at the Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (OCNRCD) if the Commission wishes to pursue more water quality initiatives.

Erika raised concerns regarding the use of glyphosate at nearby farms and suggested identifying the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) as a partner. Members agreed to include NOFA-VT, as they provide another important function. Will clarified that OCNRCD works closely with NOFA-VT in their capacity to assist both organic and conventional farmers.

Betsy suggested adding source citations for all figures in the document; JoAnn agreed to add them.

Chris moved to approve the GCC contribution to the Town Plan, subject to incorporating the specific revisions and changes discussed above. Peter seconded the motion, and all members present voted in favor.

The discussion moved to public comment.

Paul Fixx requested that members provide their names after the meeting so he could identify them in a photograph he took.

4.) **Review and Approve** a letter to the VT F&W Board in advance of their June 17th meeting requesting that they prohibit the intentional harvesting of Black Bear sows with cubs.

Jane presented the final draft of a letter to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board ahead of their June 17th meeting, requesting a prohibition on the intentional harvesting of Black Bear sows with cubs. Chris asked for feedback. Erika raised a question regarding the scope of the proposed rules. Jane clarified that this would establish a formal regulation prohibiting hunters from harvesting a sow with cubs, moving beyond the current framework which only provides hunter education.

JoAnn moved that the GCC adopt and send this letter to the VT F&W Board. Peter seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: 7 Yea(Chris, Jane, Emma, Betsy, Will, Peter, JoAnn) 0 Nay, 1 Abstentions(Erika); motion carried.

5.) **Discussion** on additional panelist for the July 8th invasives management discussion.

Will shared public feedback regarding the upcoming Invasives Management panel scheduled for July 8th. Members of the public expressed concern that the current panel lacks diverse perspectives because all participants are state employees. The public requested the inclusion of an additional panelist, Mike Bald of [Got Weeds](#), who is an expert in the mechanical management of invasive plants.

Will and Chris clarified that the panel's objective is to explore various methods and topics of invasive species management, rather than serving as a debate on chemical versus mechanical methods, or focusing solely on glyphosate. Chris noted that Mike Bald had previously spoken in Greensboro twice regarding invasives and his advice had been helpful.

Peter opposed altering the existing panel, sharing concerns that the event's focus could shift from educational to a polarizing debate on chemical use. Chris noted he had communicated with Auriel Gray and other citizens to confirm this event has been planned as an educational and informational discussion, not a debate.

Jane echoed Peter's concerns, stating an additional speaker might detract from the core purpose. Erika expressed concern that Will might not be a neutral moderator due to his role with OCNRC. Will addressed this by again stating that OCNRC works closely

with both organic and conventional farmers to protect the environment. He also clarified that as a volunteer he would be representing the GCC at this event not OCNRCD. Chris reiterated that the event was intended as a discussion not a debate, thus the notion of neutrality in the moderator was misplaced and it was more important to have a well-informed moderator.

After questions from Betsy regarding Mike Bald's potential contributions, Chris noted that Mike would bring practical value to the discussion due to his extensive experience dealing with mechanical invasive removal. Erika further expressed concern over the widespread use of glyphosate in farming both locally and regionally and the associated health impacts. Chris reminded the room that the GCC does not support the widespread use of glyphosate.

JoAnn moved to confer with the three current panelists to ask if they are comfortable adding another speaker. If they agree, the GCC will invite Mike Bald; if any panelist objects, the lineup will remain unchanged. Chris seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: 5 Yea(Chris, Jane, JoAnn, Betsy, Erika), 1 Nay(Peter), 2 Abstentions(Will, Emma); motion carried.

Will will contact the three panelists to determine if they are comfortable adding another panelist(Mike Bald) to the July 8th panel.

Will suggested amending the discussion to address compensation for Mike Bald. Chris moved that the GCC cover Mike Bald's travel expenses. Erika seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: 5 Yea(Chris, Jane, JoAnn, Betsy, Erika), 1 Nay(Peter), 2 Abstentions(Will, Emma); motion carried.

The discussion moved to public comment

Anne Stevens shared details from a conversation with Mike Bald, noting that he would appreciate travel coverage like gas money. She thanked Chris for considering differing public viewpoints. Anne also recommended appointing a different moderator for the panel, suggesting Ed Sunday-Winters instead of Will. Chris responded that Will will remain the moderator, citing his extensive knowledge of the topic.

6.) 11:15 am- **Adjourn**