GREENSBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

General Commission Meeting
10:15 a.m. Saturday, November 14th, 2026

Present
Emma Palumbo(Remote), Clerk
Jane Hoffman, Treasurer
JoAnn Hanowski, Vice-Chair
Liza Kiesler, Member
Emily Cayer, Advisor
Betsy Youngman, Member

Absent
Chris Steel, Chair
Peter Watkinson, Member
Erika Karp, Member
Allison Stegner, Advisor

Members of the Public
Hollis Keith

1.) 10:23am - **Meeting Commences**

2.) Emma Palumbo: **Review & Approve Minutes** of the Meetings on September 12th, 2026 and October 15th, 2026

a.) Progress on Actions from the Meeting on September 12th, 2026

Emma summarized outstanding action items. 2027 event updates were tabled for later in the agenda. Chris has submitted GCC comment for the annual Town Report. Jane moved to approve the September 12th, 2026 minutes; JoAnn seconded. All members present approved.

b.) Progress on Actions from the Meeting on October 15th, 2026

There were no reported outstanding action items. Jane moved to approve the October 15th, 2026 minutes; JoAnn seconded. All members present approved.

3.) Jane Hoffman: **Treasurer's Report**

Jane provided the treasurer's report. As of November 12, 2026, the Commission holds net assets of $5,130.46 for FY26. Total expenses since July 2026 equal $1,333.99.

4.) **Willey Beach Park Update**

Emma provided an update in Chris' absence. Chris presented the project to the Selectboard, which approved moving forward to the Development Review Board (DRB). Since the boardwalk is a non-conforming structure within the shoreland protection district, a zoning variance is required. Chris is working with Brett S. to finalize the Zoning Variance Application (currently 99% complete) ahead of a January DRB review.

5.) JoAnn Hanowski**: Town Plan Public Hearing Update & Next Steps**

JoAnn provided a brief update on the Town Plan process. Members discussed recommendations to the Planning Commission regarding the Town Plan's natural resources section, agreeing that it should balance housing and conservation priorities (e.g., allowing conservation PUDs and adopting a voluntary approach to mitigating housing development impacts within the corridor). Members also noted a desire to better understand Jens's methodology for creating the overlay map to clarify the boundaries of critical areas. JoAnn moved to recommend using the original map that was included in the GCC's natural resources section of the town plan and to add one additional action: create voluntary site-level guidelines to mitigate impacts on natural resources in the corridor; Betsy seconded. All members present approved.

JoAnn will forward the commission's recommendations to the planning commission.

6.) JoAnn Hanowski**: Adopt-A-Culvert Update**

JoAnn gave an update on the Adopt-a-Culvert program. Roughly 86 culverts have been adopted across 14 volunteers, and status reports continue to come in. JoAnn plans to coordinate with the town road crew before recruiting additional volunteers.

7.) Emily Cayer: **NeighborWood Watch Update- installing cameras at critical wildlife crossings**

Emily provided an update on the NeighborWood watch program. There are currently 22 trail cameras in the program (8 funded via AVCC tiny grants), promoted largely through word of mouth. Photo uploads are going well, though some participants who are

uncomfortable or unable to check their cameras have needed assistance. Five cameras are currently deployed at critical wildlife crossings: two on Town Highway 8 (one may be relocated to a better site), one on Rocking Rock Road, and two on Gebbie Rd. Emily will provide a progress report to AVCC on the program ahead of the December 18th deadline.

8.) **Progress on 2027 Public Events - Bird Walks, Betsy (Pollinators), Peter (Northern Peatlands) and Jane (Fishing)**

Bird walks are being scheduled for next year and Chris will contact the VT Bird Diva to lead one if the $3,000 budget is approved.

Betsy provided an update on a potential pollinator event for summer 2027. The Highland Center for the Arts (HCA) offered five Thursday evening dates between mid-June and mid-August to host a speaker in their theater. Betsy is awaiting a response from Spencer Hardy (VCE) to coordinate a mid-July talk.

Peter will update on Northern Peatlands at the next meeting.

Jane reported the fly fishing festival is scheduled for the weekend of June 6, 2027, focusing primarily on trout. The GCC program will take place on Sunday, June 6 at 3:00 PM. The American Museum of Fly Fishing offered to host a livestream and virtual tour (or send a recorded video), followed by film screenings organized by Dave Kelley.

Jane will further coordinate with Jay Modry to potentially hold fly-fishing instruction on Caspian Lake. Emily will design the promotional flyer once details are finalized.

9.) JoAnn Hanowski: **Future of Caspian Dam Community Meeting**

A public Caspian Dam Committee meeting is scheduled for next Thursday (time TBD). The dam, whose northern section sits in Greensboro, has received failing state reports since 1979 due to deteriorating concrete. Greensboro's Selectboard has agreed to coordinate with Hardwick on next steps. The Town of Hardwick and Hardwick Electric face pressure over safety and lack of insurance. An initial hydrological assessment is estimated at $30,000. Downstream effects on public safety and potential impacts on lake levels remain major concerns.

JoAnn also provided an update detailing that Emerald Ash Borer has been positively identified in Craftsbury. She has contacted the county forester, Jared Nunnery, who believes it’s also in Greensboro. They have been deploying bio-control wasps but can

only release them on federal or state lands. Jared is trying to loosen up regulations so bio-control can be released on municipal properties.

10.) **Executive Session**

Jane moved to recommend to the Selectboard that Hollis Keith be appointed to the Greensboro Conservation Commission; JoAnn seconded. All members present approved.

Chris will send the commission's recommendation as well as Hollis's background to the selectboard to be included at their next meeting.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for **January 9th, 2027** at **10:15am** at the *Greensboro Free Library.*

12.) 11:45am- **Adjourn**