

**TOWN OF GREENSBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (GCC)**

Meeting at Greensboro Free Library, Thursday, April 3, 2008, 5:30 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Clive Gray (clerk), Erika Karp, Aaron Kromash, Elizabeth Metraux (chair)

Local ag. products directory: Elizabeth noted that the responses of listed producers to the survey regarding the 2006 directory's impact indicated they had not noticed much effect on their business. Members noted that several of the listings are out-of-date, i.e. producers no longer supply the indicated commodities, and turnover will likely continue. The group concluded that it would not be worthwhile (and outside funding was unlikely to be found—the 2006 version cost \$2,000) to reproduce the directory.

Instead, members decided to pursue getting ag. producers listed on the town's website. Elizabeth will call Bridget Collier about this.

[Note: the Town website currently has a category called "Business Listings," which includes four ag./food products—Berryhill Nursery, New Leaf Designs/Down to Earth Worms, Beefalo, and Bien Fait Bakery—of which the latter two are no longer in business. The Town could be asked to create a separate page for ag./food producers. The page could be printed and copies stashed around town at modest expense.]

Natural history pamphlet: Members noted the 16-page illustrated brochure produced by the Woodbury Conservation Commission. It was agreed that the GCC might try to produce a similar pamphlet in 2009. Such a document would have substantial educational value for citizens, visitors and school children, and would not go out of date. Elizabeth cited the Davis Foundation of Maine as a possible source of finance. Members agreed the GCF (see below) could be drawn on. Clive agreed to contact Susan Sawyer, main author of the Woodbury document, to see what their product cost, how they financed it, how it was distributed, and whether Susan would be available to assist us.

Greensboro Conservation Fund (GCF): Members noted that this now amounts to \$10,000, following appropriation of another \$2,000 at the March 4 Town Meeting. Expenditure from the GCF can only be authorized by the Selectboard or, if the Selectboard so decides, by Town Meeting.

Aaron asked how this money was intended to be spent. Clive said the main intent behind the GCF is to build up funds that can be used down the road to help finance land conservation projects where other donors (of larger amounts) want to see evidence of official Town backing. Other donors could be the Greensboro Land Trust and/or the Vermont Land Trust (VLT). One of the VLT's project categories is Community-supported projects, which do not have to meet the same size threshold or use criteria as agricultural and forest projects.

Possible future candidates in Greensboro include the Porter Brook Natural Area, the Perron farm and Circus Smirkus. However, none of these projects appears to be imminent.

Greensboro Town Energy Committee (GTEC): Aaron asked whether the GCC could collaborate with GTEC on energy conservation. Members felt that the Commission should give favorable consideration to specific proposals in this regard, even though the functions ascribed to conservation commissions by the relevant statute (24 V.S.A. § 4505) do not mention energy conservation (see following list of these functions). It was noted that the statute was enacted decades ago, before energy conservation became a hot issue.

“Any conservation commission created under this chapter may:

- (1) make an inventory and conduct continuing studies of the natural resources of the municipality including but not limited to:
 - (A) air, surface and ground waters, and pollution thereof;
 - (B) soils and their capabilities;
 - (C) mineral and other earth resources;
 - (D) streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, and floodplains;
 - (E) unique or fragile biologic sites;
 - (F) scenic and recreational resources;
 - (G) plant and animal life, especially the rare and endangered species;
 - (H) prime agricultural and forest land, and other open lands;
- (2) make and maintain an inventory of lands within the municipality which have historic, educational, cultural, scientific, architectural, or archaeological values in which the public has an interest;
- (3) recommend to the legislative body of the municipality the purchase or the receipt of gifts of land or rights thereto, or other property, for the purposes of this chapter;
- (4) receive appropriations for operating expenses including clerical help by appropriation through the budget of the legislative body;
- (5) receive money, grants or private gifts from any source, for the purposes of this chapter. Grants and gifts received by the trustee of public funds shall be carried in a conservation fund from year to year to be expended only for purposes of this chapter;
- (6) receive gifts of land or other property for the purposes of this chapter, by consent of the legislative body or by the affirmative vote of the municipality;
- (7) administer the lands, properties and other rights which have been acquired by the municipality for the purposes of this chapter;
- (8) assist the local planning commission or zoning board of adjustment or the district environmental commission, by providing advisory environmental evaluations where pertinent to applications made to those bodies, for permits for development;
- (9) cooperate with the local legislative body, planning commission, zoning board of adjustment, road committee or other municipal or private organizations on matters affecting the local environment or the natural resources of the municipality;
- (10) prepare, collect, publish, advertise and distribute relevant books, maps and other documents and maintain communication with similar organizations; and encourage through educational activities the public understanding of local natural resources and conservation needs;
- (11) make a brief annual report to the municipality of its finances and transactions for the year just passed, and its plans and prospects for the ensuing year. (Added 1977, No. 250 (Adj. Sess.), § 1.)”

Next meeting: To be called by Elizabeth

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted _____ April 4, 2008
Clive S. Gray

Addresses:

Chair: Elizabeth Metraux, Craftsbury Road, Greensboro, VT 05841
Email: Elizabeth@elizabethmetraux.com

Treasurer: Erika Karp, Shadow Lake Rd, ...
Email: erikalakeview@vmlink.net

Clerk: Clive Gray, 1131 Craftsbury Rd., Greensboro, VT 05841
Email: cliveg@wirelessvt.net

Members:

Phil Gray, 1109 Craftsbury Rd., Greensboro, VT 05841
Email: grayp@wirelessvt.net

Mark McGrath, Town Highway #8, Greensboro Bend, VT 05842
Email: mmcgrath@hughes.net

Aaron Kromash, 672 Salls Rd., Greensboro Bend, VT 05842
Email: aaron@terra-scale.com

David Metraux, Craftsbury Road, Greensboro, VT 05841
Email: david@davidmetraux.com