

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

Meeting at Greensboro Town Offices, Thursday, March 14, 2013, 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Erika Karp (chair), Clive Gray (clerk), Mark McGrath, Kristen Leahy, Linda Shatney, Tim Short

The clerk noted that the Selectboard on March 13 had appointed Kristen Leahy, Linda Shatney and Tim Short, and reappointed Clive Gray, to the GCC. Tim and Kristen's appointments run until 2015, Linda's and Clive's until 2016. Erika Karp's term runs until 2015, and Mark McGrath's till 2014.

The Commission reelected Erika as chair and Clive as clerk.

Public meetings

The Commission considered whether it should organize any public meetings in the foreseeable future, à la the Craftsbury CC. It was noted that the Greensboro Land Trust's annual meeting on July 29 will feature a PowerPoint presentation by Cedrix Alexander, moose specialist in the state's Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Erika described a session on invasive species that she attended last year at Johnson State College, and produced several publications distributed to participants. It was agreed that the booklets should be placed in the Greensboro Free Library. Kristen agreed to contact the Greensboro Association about possibly distributing to its membership a one-page flyer asking people not to import firewood from outside the area.

There was a consensus that the GCC's most appropriate public function in the near future would be a presentation on invasives. This could be a topic of a GUCC Wednesday lecture. The question of whether and when to mount such a function was postponed to a future meeting.

Booklet on natural resources

Clive informed the group that the Northern Rivers Land Trust is convening an interagency meeting on Tuesday morning, April 16 to discuss preparation of a booklet on natural resources in the NRLT's 7-town area. The booklet *Our Town: An Introduction to Woodbury's Natural History*, written by Susan Sawyer and published by the Woodbury CC, would serve as a model for the NRLT publication. Ms. Sawyer has agreed to attend the meeting and advise the group. The GLT and Woodbury and Craftsbury CCs will be represented. The NRLT is inviting the GCC to be represented. The group appointed Clive to represent it. Linda will try to fit it into her schedule. Other GCC members would be welcome.

It was noted that the Woodbury Community Development Foundation funded printing of the Woodbury booklet with a grant of \$2,500. Clive said the Green Mountain Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation would probably consider favorably an application to fund the NRLT booklet. Their maximum grant is \$5,000. In June 2008 the Greensboro Selectboard approved a request by the GCC to spend \$60 from the Greensboro Conservation Fund to finance two hours of Susan Sawyer's time in advising the GCC on a booklet for Greensboro. These funds have not yet been used.

The group discussed whether Greensboro should produce its own booklet, or support the NRLT project. Kristen favored a multi-town booklet on the ground that Greensboro residents and visitors are not confined to our town, but circulate among

neighboring towns and are interested in the regional environment. Clive supported this view, adding that most natural features are common to the 7-town area.

The group discussed whether the booklet should be sold or distributed *gratis*. Clive said one idea was to have stores such as Willey's sell it. Kristen strongly favored free distribution, noting that the booklet should be used in public and home schooling.

Protection of Caspian Lake

The group agreed that protection of the lake is a topic the GCC should follow closely. It has been reported that phosphorus from fertilizer is polluting the lake's northwest corner.

Kristen reported that the Planning Commission is considering whether the town needs a water protection ordinance. The legislature is considering a bill that would impose state regulation on preservation of berms and cutting of vegetation along shorelines. The bill would allow towns to impose more severe restrictions.

The group noted that few residents are aware of the existence of a berm along portions of the Caspian shore. The group discussed the lakeshore path, which is obstructed at several points. Kristen said several residents of lakeshore cottages have called to ask whether they can block the path. She has replied that there is no town regulation regarding the path. Mark expressed the view that private property rights have to be respected.

Clive noted that a GLT committee is considering Caspian's feeder streams. The committee's chair, Rick Yeiser, has obtained a considerable amount of data from Fish and Wildlife and Sterling College. He and Linda are members of the committee, which will be meeting again soon. Andy Dales has attended the meetings and supplied data. Clive agreed to supply copies, as well as maps obtained from the Agency of Natural Resources, for the GCC binder in the Town Offices.

The group formed a lake subcommittee, comprising Linda, Tim and Erika, to consider what needs to be addressed in the future concerning Caspian Lake health. The committee will meet at Tim Short's house on Thursday, March 21, at 4:00 p.m. Andy Dales and Willie Smith will be invited to talk about what the Greensboro Association and Planning Commission, respectively, have worked and are working on. [Note: Andy has already accepted the invite.]

Conservation vs. development

The Planning Commission is concerned about the lack of housing in town for employees of enterprises such as Jasper Hill Cheese. The group noted the need to maintain a balance between conservation of land and expansion of housing.

GCC file in Town Offices

Kristen noted that town commissions are required to submit their minutes to the Town Clerk. She agreed to look for the GCC binder.

Next meeting

The group agreed to reconvene on Friday, April 26, at 4:00 p.m. in the GFL.

Respectfully submitted
Clive Gray, 3-15-13