

# **Greenfield Conservation Commission**

## **Meeting Minutes**

January 19, 2022

Recorded by Michelle Hall

Members Attending: Karen Day, Kate Dean, Carol Irvin, Stephanie Kokal, Roger Lessard

7:00 pm Chairman Roger called the meeting to order.

### Accept or Amend Previous Meeting Minutes

Carol moved to accept previous meeting minutes, seconded by Kate. All were in favor.

### **Old Business:**

#### Meadow Park:

Roger reported that there are a number of empty tote tanks behind the fire station. These are of the type that GCC is hoping to procure for irrigating the pollinator plants at Meadow Park. Once/if we secure the cooperation of the fire dept. to fill and refill such a water tank at Meadow Park, we can ask about the possibility of procuring one of the aforementioned tanks (providing they do not contain any toxic residue). Plan B is to purchase one through Jeremy Gagnon.

#### Pollinator Pathway:

- Present the overall Pollinator Pathway concept to the select board
- Get select board's permission to move forward with PP on selected town-owned properties
- Pending BOS approval, outline specific plan, i.e. planting lilacs and Rugosa roses between the two lamp posts located near the sidewalk on tax map (V1-Lot 8), the Forest Rd. municipal parking lot. GCC members Karen and Roger will donate lilacs from their property. Roses can be ordered from Fedco for delivery in May.
- Confer with landscaping contractor Jeremy Gagnon on plan, as he will likely be responsible for maintenance once the plantings are established
- Contact DigSafe through the DPW before any excavation
- Set date for adding soil amendment and planting
- Establish watering regimen and duties until plants are firmly established
- Roger will contact the NHDOT re possible inclusion of state-owned land at Forest Rd/Peterborough Rd (R4 Lot 61) in the proposed Pollinator Pathway.

### **New Business:**

#### Wetlands Project:

Due to recent wetlands issues on private property, the GCC decided at its 12/29/21 meeting to launch a concerted effort to ensure that Greenfield land owners are aware of the importance and ecological value of wetlands, how to protect them, and when/how to apply for wetlands permits from NHDES if/when required.

- Karen proposed ordering two new Greenfield base maps from SWRPC, one to use as a work sheet on which changes can be marked, the other as a clean copy for display until all revisions are made and transmitted to SWRPC. The price of these was recently quoted as being under \$25

plus shipping. All members present voted to approve up to \$75 toward this purchase. GCC will focus initially on wetlands situated on town-owned land, followed by those on state-owned property. Eventually, an invitation can be extended to private property owners to determine if they wish to participate.

- Kate mentioned that she had reached out to a wetlands scientist she knows, asking if she would be willing to assist GCC in the wetlands project. The response was enthusiastically affirmative. Roger asked Kate to ascertain if the offer is gratis or if it would incur a fee. Kate did not know, but will ask.
- Now is actually a good time to observe known wetlands because of the lack of foliage. As waterbodies freeze over, they afford access that is much more challenging in warmer weather.
- Karen proposed the purchase of updated “Got Permits?” posters, created by NHDES. The graphic is available free to download, and then can be printed. Karen obtained a quote of roughly \$5 per copy if printed on card stock. There would be an additional cost if the posters have to be mounted/printed on heavier material.
- Karen suggested that the GCC look into having Tom Tynning, a renowned herpetologist from MA, who presented a program/field trip in Greenfield a number of years back, return in the spring for an encore presentation. All present voted to authorize Karen to offer Dr. Tynning up to \$300 for an in-person presentation.
- Roger mentioned that there are numerous waterbodies which are, as far as is readily known, unnamed. Roger will consult with Greenfield Historical Society President Lenny Cornwell to see if he knows if some of them actually have names. If not, perhaps the town’s citizens could be invited to submit suggestions.

#### Website/Facebook:

As Candi Fowler was absent from this meeting, this matter was tabled for now.

#### Forestry Committee:

The recent passing of Forestry Committee chair Hunter Carbee prompted a discussion re that committee’s immediate future. Roger stated that he was never actually appointed to that committee. He merely began to attend their meetings after Janet Renaud stepped off the GCC. Roger will inquire about when each member’s term expires.

#### Perennial Calendar:

This tool has fallen into disuse. Roger proposed that it be resurrected and revised. With the cancellation of Greenfield’s winter carnival this year, he will write an article about fun things that people can do this winter, e.g., NH Fish & Game’s Winter Turkey Flock Survey, Audubon Society of NH’s Backyard Winter Bird Survey, and National Audubon’s Great Backyard Bird Count.

#### Plant Sale:

Roger wondered if it would be helpful to promote Hillsborough County Conservation District’s spring plant sale to the public. Kate expanded that idea by suggesting a plant sale to be held in a highly visible location on a weekend in May. Someone suggested that the historical society might make a good venue. Roger will contact Lenny Cornwell to see if this would interest them.

iNaturalist training:

Roger will enroll in this four-week virtual workshop, presented by the Harris Center and pass on his newly acquired knowledge to the rest of the GCC for eventual dissemination to the public. Cost is \$60, which will be drawn from the Education/Convention budget line item.

Roger adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next regular meeting of the GCC is scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, upstairs at the town office building.