

Greenfield Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2022

Recorded by Michelle Hall

Members Attending: Karen Day, Kate Dean, Carol Irvin, Candi Fowler, Roger Lessard

7:05 pm Chairman Roger called the meeting to order.

Special Appearance:

The GCC welcomed wetland scientist Sharon Monahan of Peterborough to this meeting. Sharon has been a wetland scientist for over 20 years and is also a NH septic designer, also working much with wetland violation restoration plans. The GCC would like to have Sharon reinforce its ability to identify and classify various town wetlands in the coming Spring. She would not charge anything to GCC members, but would charge a fee to other attendees. Sharon also suggested using the NHDESS Wetlands Permitting Planning Tool (WPPT) website to assist with primary wetlands and critical wildlife habitat areas. Sharon explained that it would be very costly for the town to employ a wetland scientist. It is the property owner who would hire one when needed. Kate will be the liaison between the GCC and Sharon.

Business:

Accept or Amend Previous Meeting Minutes

Karen moved to accept the previous meeting minutes. Seconded by Carol, all were in favor.

Old Business:

Meadow Park:

- Seeding – Seeds are in except for back ordered licorice mint due March 9.
- Irrigation – (tote tanks behind fire station contain toxic residue) Ray Cilley may have some. Roger will talk to him.
- Planning and installing kiosk – deferred for now due to frozen ground

Pollinator Pathways:

- Selecting and purchasing plants for municipal parking lot next to blacksmith shop – Beach roses are available from NH State Nursery. The GCC also discussed different types of lilacs which flower at different times of the year.
- Designing, acquiring, disseminating PP participant yard signs – Roger borrowed a Jaffrey Con Com PP participant yard sign, which is visible and informative, as an example for BOS presentation. The GCC discussed creating something that could be displayed on an easel.
- Contacting NHDOT section manager re inclusion of state-owned land at Forest Rd/Peterborough Rd triangle into PP – Roger obtained name and contact info from A. Patt. This will need to wait pending BOS approval of the PP project.
- Consider promoting HCCD plant sale to Greenfield residents – Roger emailed HCCD District Manager K. Rickrode. Announcement of sale is due out imminently.

- Publish list of pollinator-friendly plants and a time line of when they bloom. This could go into an article in The Spirit.

Completing project already begun:

- Resume cleaning out the GCC property from the old gym. The plan is to work on this on Sunday March 20th at 1 pm.

Easement monitoring:

Codify our responsibilities to monitor Reynolds Field- The GCC will meet at the post office on Sunday May 1st at 8am.

Wetlands Project:

- Order new base maps from SWRPC – Ordered & Received at \$22 each.
- Print new “Got Permits” posters. Samples obtained for review. The GCC decided to have three posters printed on PVC material for \$60 each. Roger moved to approve up to \$180 for the three posters. All were in favor.

Action Item:

- (1) Karen will get confirmation that the posters can be posted at the library, upstairs and downstairs at the town office building.
 - (2) Before the next meeting, Karen will get prices on a foldable easel for the GCC.
- Write wetlands article for inclusion in The Greenfield Spirit- Roger will work on this for the April/May edition.
 - Try to ascertain names of various water bodies in town, perhaps with the help of the historical society. – L. Cornwell is unaware of any names other than Diamond Swamp.
 - Contact Dr. Tom Tynning re herpetology program around Earth Day – Karen is in contact with Tom, who is available April 15, 16, 29 and 30 for an evening event. The GCC will request April 16th.

Forestry Committee:

- Determine membership appointment status – Roger contacted D. Adams without reply. He spoke with G. Russell, who wants to convene a FC meeting. He would like to see the town forest expanded.

Perennial Calendar:

- Review and update with focus on interacting with public. The GCC will discuss further at next month’s meeting.

iNaturalist training:

- Roger has begun the four-week course in-person at the Harris Center. He reported that it is very interesting, informative and educational.

New Business:

Website/Facebook:

- Revamp digital presence to reflect focus on pollinators and wetlands. Candi had created a Google website in the past, where people could send her photos of wildlife in town, but it has fallen into disuse. Candi is going to delete this website. Several ideas were discussed about how best to interact with the public, perhaps via social media.

Pollinator Pathways

- Sponsor a Con Com member to become a NH Master Gardner - Kate is interested in this. The cost of the course and manual total \$325. Karen moved to spend up to \$325, for Kate to enroll in the NH Master Gardner course offered by UNH Extension. Seconded by Candi. All were in favor.
- Propagate nursery stock at community garden. The NH State Nursery has several packages, including one that contains multiple plants of five different pollinators, which they drop ship to one location in each county. The GCC will decide at a later date.

Roadside Roundup:

- Pending approval of Pollinator Pathway plan, set up PP display under the popup tent, near baked goods table.
- Add distribution of annual seeds (zinnias?) to baked goods table. The PP has a website, featuring brochures, etc. which would be good to hand out.

Well Water Testing:

- It's already been 3 years since GCC last presented this. Shall we do it again? The GCC discussed organizing this again. In the April/ May Spirit they should have a query asking if residents would like to participate in this again, and have them sign up. The GCC will schedule this if they have 20 or more people who sign up. This would be a good opportunity for the town to have the water at all town facilities tested. Karen will ask Rick about this.

Announcements:

Roger reported that the wetlands application, which we signed, was rejected for the site on East Rd. NHDES stated that because aggregate material was used in the temporary driveway wetlands crossing before the permit was approved, that they now need to file an 'After the Fact' permit.

9:06 pm Candi motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Kate. All were in favor. The next meeting of the GCC will be Wednesday, March 16th at 7 pm.