

Greenfield Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2023

Recorded by Michelle Hall

Members Attending: Karen Day, Kate Dean, David Hall, Kristine Hall, Candi Fowler, Tom Bregani

Guests: Steven LaMonde and Jeff from Moosewood Ecological

7:00 pm Karen called the meeting to order.

Accept or Amend Previous Meeting Minutes

Kate motioned to accept previous meeting minutes. Seconded by Kristine. Motion passed, all were in favor.

Moosewood Ecological Pollinator Survey Report

Steven went over the results from the pollinator survey which was conducted at 13 locations last year. Steven explained that the landscape is very good for all pollinators, especially for bees. The town garden was the best location, with the town septic field being a close second, with Oak Park in third. He recommends that the town garden and the town septic field not be mowed or at the least alternating limited mowing. All 13 locations have high potentials for being part of the pollinator pathways.

Steven recommends planning a fun event to hand out seeds and sell plants. Karen discussed holding an event during the Library's driveway expansion, however she has not been able to touch base with Director David Bridgewater to confirm when this will take place. Jeff recommended ordering plants in November to sell in the Spring.

Jeff explained that there are some things to be considered when planning a garden along a parking lot; some being plowing and salt usage. Once the GCC comes up with a site for a community planting event, Moosewood would be able to help them with determining plant types and placement, and would be able to sell the plants to the GCC at cost. They also discussed planting at the fire station this fall.

Kate explained that the Oak Park Committee would like to plant a garden but would like some help with that. Steven will send a link to see a report on plants for endangered native bees. Steven explained that it would be great to encourage home gardens as it is just as good as an acre garden on town property. They could work with the land owners directly if they are interested in starting or making changes to their home gardens. Jeff will send an article for Karen to use in the Spirit.

Candi will email David Bridgewater regarding the driveway expansion. Kate will see if the Oak Park Committee will be able to attend the next GCC meeting to discuss planting at Oak Park. Karen will let Steven know if they are or are not able to attend to see if he will be available as well.

1. Ongoing Pollinator Garden Project

The GCC determined that they will plant zinnia seeds by the Blacksmith shop Saturday June 3rd at 3pm. Karen will test her hose to see if she has enough in working condition and will bring one or two of her blue buckets to store the hose in. Candi will commit to watering on Saturdays in June and Tom is willing to water on Wednesdays in June.

The GCC went over the Fire Chief approving them to plant along the station, they will likely plant black eyed Susan.

New Business:

1. Report on programs – David Hall set it up with David Bridgewater that the GCC will have the Wensberg room for programs on the third Thursday of even months moving forward.

Current programs are:

6/15 – Rich Masters on Moose

8/17 – Candi presenting a butterfly program

October - Rich Masters is also willing to do something on Bobcats

Spring – David would like to do something on reptiles

The GCC passed the idea around to start nature hikes and snow shoeing events, however they were concerned with who may be liable. Karen will reach out to Barbara at the NHCC to inquire.

2. Harris Center Kestral Nesting Boxes - Phil Brown already made a map of favorable box locations, 3 being in Greenfield. Tom explained it would be no cost to the GCC. They would build, install and track on their own with permission. Tom will ask for them to come to the next GCC meeting for a brief conversation.
3. Article Coordinator – Tom will commit to coordinating and following GCC articles for the Spirit to make sure there is one for every issue and that they are in on time.
4. Building a contact list – Mailchimp – up to 2000 email addresses at a time
The GCC discussed reassessing the need for their own website next year. For now, they will explore the option of obtaining email addresses and sending an email out to advertise programs and events. This would be a perfect job for Brenda if she is interested. They discussed planning events and programs between Spirit editions as well as including a GCC calendar in the articles.

Beginning Trails Project – Tabled until next meeting.

8:50 pm David motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Kristine. All were in favor, motion passed. The next meeting of the GCC will be Wednesday June 28, 2023 at 7pm, upstairs at the town hall.