

Hardwick Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 13, 2025, at the Memorial Building

Present: Kathy Hemmens, Lucy Zendzian, Tyler Buswell, Ben Pougner, Rachel Kane, Joe Nudell, Ginny Garrison (Guest)

Absent: Peter Moskovitz, Norma Wiesen, Lesa Cathcart

1. Meeting called to order at 5:08pm
2. Minutes of 9/8/25 approved unanimously
3. Additions to agenda
 - a. Quarterly budget report
 - b. Hosting a talk on dealing with drought and water conservation
4. **Quarterly budget report (Kathy):** \$4,137.84 in account after annual appropriation
5. **Forest Connectivity Walk Planning**
 - a. **Joe, Kathy, Lucy** met with **Emily Potter** (Forester) to scout location. Originally proposed walk location on Wright Farm Rd was deemed too difficult to walk on due to VASA resurfacing, so location was changed to trail behind Atkins Field.
 - b. Final date and time is 10/25@10am at Atkins Field
 - c. **Lucy** will update poster with new location
 - d. **Lucy** will update announcement to reflect new location and add a link to the Buffalo Mountain proposal on HCC website
 - e. **Lesa** will post announcement on Front Porch Forum
6. **Tree Planting Project Update (Rachel)**
 - a. 29 of 30 trees confirmed planted. Last tree should have been planted since last update.
 - b. HCC members will water trees through end of October
 - i. **Joe** will continue to water the 8 trees requiring daily watering
 - ii. **Rachel, Lucy, Tyler** and others will meet 5pm on Tuesdays to water other trees
 - iii. Discussion of where to fill up water buckets
 1. **Tyler** will check hoses at Atkins Field
 2. Atkins Field will be primary location if hoses are on
 3. **Joe's house** will be fallback location
7. **Buffalo Mountain Updates (Rachel)**
 - a. Local business owners have expressed concern about losing access to existing VAST, VASA trails that cross the property
 - b. Some residents concerned about cost of project, in both loss of tax revenue and future maintenance costs
 - c. Buffalo Mountain proposal has been added to HCC website to help inform about the project
 - d. HCC will start to think about steering committee

8. Updating HCC Website (Ben)

- a. Current website lacks structure and relevant information such as event calendar and recent photos
- b. Greensboro CC website identified as a nice model, **Ben** will contact them to find who maintains the website

9. Soils & Geology Walk Report (Lucy): Walk was successful, though attendance was limited due to conflicting events

10. AVCC Regional Meeting Report (Kathy & Rachel)

- a. Hosted at the Jeudevine Library and was very well attended
- b. Reminder that non-town-resident members are welcome as advisory members of Commissions
- c. Networking with other CCs was helpful and **Rachel** will follow up with nearby Commission Members

11. Drought Management Talk: Deferred discussion until **Peter** is available. **Rachel** will follow up with **Peter** about this.

12. Other business

- a. **Rachel** proposes discussing Conservation Fund next meeting
- b. **Rachel** proposes considering hosting a talk by John Liebowitz from NEWT to discuss land use on conserved land

13. Adjourned at 6:16pm

Submitted by Joe Nudell, HCC member

Next regular meeting: Monday, November 10, 2025, 5pm at the Memorial Building.