

Grayson LandCare Annual Meeting
Monday, October 19, 2015 at 6:00 PM

With over 50 people in attendance, the annual meeting began with a pot luck dinner, desert and social hour.

Kathy Cole opened the meeting by thanking Charlotte Hanes for providing our location, the kitchen and the drinks.

Happy birthday was sung to Kat Snyder. Kathy acknowledged several special visitors; Pete Ziegler, Susan Clark, Doug Vaught, Mary Ellen Rhudy, Dave Wallace, and Britt Boucher. The Board of Directors was introduced including our past president, Danny Boyer.

Kathy then gave a review of Grayson LandCare's activities for the past year. The BOD created a Strategic Plan for GLC for 1 year and for the near future. The BOD created a sub-committee that reviewed and recommended changes to the by-laws which will be voted on later in the meeting. The BOD hired Perry Deglandon who designed a new logo for GLC. GLC bought new banners and long and short sleeved logo t-shirts. We partnered with Grayson County for an agribusiness tour and with Virginia Tech for the Hokie Bugfest. We began a "First Friday Film Series" this year partnering with The Church of the Good Shepherd. This year we had 4 films and next year, beginning in April, we will have 5 films. The Independence Farmers Market has expanded and was just approved for an \$82,000 USDA grant. The IFM has been a builder of our community. The Save Green Expo was moved back to Independence and it was a tremendous success.

Katie Trozzo has created "Blue Ridge Woodland Growers" whose purpose is to find things to do with our forest land.

We participated in a meeting with VT, state and federal officials to create an "Appalachian Food Shed Policy."

We have co-sponsored Beekeeping classes. The chair of our Forestry Committee has donated lumber to several public schools.

We have participated in 2 Earth Day events, one in Independence and one in Floyd. We also participated in a Mother Earth News weekend in Asheville, NC.

We sponsored 3 tours; a tiny house tour, Glade Ridge Organic Farm, and to Beagle Ridge Herb Farm.

We sponsored workshops in elderberries that included a tour of Collette Nester's elderberries, a blueberry workshop, a wool workshop and workshops for the vendors of the Independence Farmers Market.

We received a grant from "Feeding America SW Virginia," for our Earth Box program. There will be follow up interviews with the Earth Box participants to determine the impact on these families who begin to grow their own food.

Next year GLC is working on getting the committees more active with projects.

By-Laws

John Fant presented the changes in the by-laws that have been approved by the BOD. The first change is to create a "past president" position on the BOD. The second change is that previously, there were 3 at large positions on the BOD. In order to strengthen the four standing committees, these at large positions will be eliminated and each committee will be represented on the BOD. The BOD does have the option to re-create these positions if necessary. The third change is the elected officers will have a two year term instead of a one year term. Next year there will be a full slate of officers for re-election. The fourth change is the membership will now approve any changes to the by-laws instead of being approved by the BOD.

After some discussion, Mickey made a motion to approve the changes that were approved by the BOD. Cynthia Taylor seconded. The membership voted in favor with one opposing vote. By-Law changes were approved.

Beginning Farmer Rancher Program Grant

There is grant money of \$500 to \$5,000 available through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program and Rick solicited ideas for the grant. Many ideas were suggested. Rick asked anyone with other ideas to e-mail him because the deadline is coming up in the next few weeks.

Land Stewardship Competition

Kathy said that next year's Land Stewardship competition is getting a boost because Katie Trozzo has offered to help. One of GLC's goals is help incubate a business from one of the projects.

Treasurer's Report

Loren gave the treasurer's report. there is a copy of the report at the end of these notes.

Independence Farmers Market

The IFM ended the season with a 90% approval rate from the vendor. Most vendors said the market exceeds their expectations. Vendor rates will increase \$10 and volunteer time will increase to 8 hours and all the vendors are okay with this change. The on-line market is open and has expanded greatly this year. Ordering closes at noon on Wednesday and pickups are on Friday. they will be adding Wednesday evenings to the market in the summer. There was an excellent newspaper article about the IFM and about Heartmoss Farm.

The meeting was adjourned and the party continued.

GLC Treasurer's Report for September '2015

	Beginning Balance	Credits	Debits	Ending Balance
ARC	2,490.50			2,490.50
EB – Earthbox Program	879.92		710.50	169.42
Food HUB CAN	3,703.68			3,703.68
Food HUB Seeds of Change	4,095.26			4,095.26
General Fund	11,212.14	895.00	570.00	11,537.14
Independence Farmers Market	0.00			0.00
Land Stewardship	1,840.00			1,840.00
Save Green	1,651.38	296.00	1,189.29	758.09
Wholesome Wave ASAP	0.00			0.00
Young Farmers	1,700.00			1,700.00
TOTALS	27,572.88	1,191.00	2,469.79	26,294.09