

**Greensboro Historical Society Zoom Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

**Present:** Nancy Hill, Willie Smith, Lise Armstrong, Paula Harmon, Clive Gray, Jenny Stoner, Kyle Gray, Lynette Courtney, Janet Long, Barbara Brooke

Nancy opened the meeting by passing out maps of Greensboro Bend that show the history walk there.

Since there was no history moment scheduled and because the meeting was held outdoors with attendees sitting in a circle of socially distanced chairs on the side lawn of the Bend Rail Road station, thank you to Mark Snyder, Willie asked those attending if anyone had actually ridden the train and would they care to share any memories.

Nancy shared how as a child she used to love putting pennies on the tracks to have them flattened by the passing trains. She said that her grandfather mailed letters on the train and that the United Farmers Creamery stood opposite the station when she was growing up. Milk was picked up at the creamery and delivered to Boston. She also told of the horrible train crash that was the result of a wrong signal given by the station master, a Mr. Hoyt. Two trains collided near the present location of Rt. 16, near Jack Silver's property. There was a lot of debris and there were fatalities.

Janet rode the train. There was a telegraph station there and she remembered riding her bicycle around town to deliver telegraphs printed on yellow paper.

Nancy mentioned the photo of Irene Hill with her daughter taken by the station on the occasion of a movie scene filmed in Greensboro Bend called "The Wizard of Loneliness" which she thought was taken about 30 years ago.

**President's Report:**

Willie congratulated members on how in spite of the reduced events held this summer, GHS remained a visible presence in Greensboro with the history walk, the book sales and the Saturday museum visiting hours.

Jenny commented that attendance at the museum was low on Saturdays.

Nancy gave an update on the Hinman road sign: The State approved the text and on the 24th of September they will hold a hearing and make a decision about the sign, which if approved will require a public placement.

Nancy also said that there were activities happening this summer not seen: Several booklets have been reprinted and are now available in the GHS bookstore for \$3 each: "North Shore Summers" by Peter Watson, "Early Memories of Caspian Lake" by S. Whitney Landon, and "History of Greensboro, A Semi Centennial

Discourse" (1854) by Rev. James Stone. John Stone II donated 21 copies of his book: "A Century of Princetonians in Greensboro" to the Society to sell.

**Secretary's Report** - Barbara pointed out corrections to the June minutes given to her by Nancy. The minutes were accepted.

**Treasurer's Report** - There was a question about a \$1600 repair and maintenance expense. This was due to the floor refinishing. Between the two book sales held this summer nearly \$800 was raised. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

### **Building and environment:**

Nancy talked about how the dehumidifier failed. This was noticed by Leslie. It was under warranty however and since there is no onsite repair available, Nancy took the unit to Sears. They suggested she purchase a new dehumidifier, which she did. The old one will either be repaired or replaced with a new one which GHS could use upstairs. Nancy and Allison installed the new unit.

Town Insurance requires an annual check of fire extinguishers. The inspector came and found that three of our extinguishers need to be replaced due to age. Nancy has ordered them from Willey's Store; they run about \$45 - \$50 apiece.

**Newsletter** - Jenny said that if we do publish a fall letter, we need articles. There was a discussion about possible articles for the newsletter including:

- A follow up on the history walk
- The window at GHS with the suffragist banner and list of local women who actually legally voted in the first election
- Perhaps history in the making: the recent fire in the Bend.

A note on the Bend fire: Nancy told the group that supposedly "All Metals" of Wolcott would be taking the remains of the building down in September. Also Dan Predpall has applied for a grant for planning and economic growth for the downtown Bend. The amount of the grant is \$22,000. This should dovetail with the Rail Trail renovation project.

**Hazen Road Dispatch** - Copies of the HRD have sold out at Willey's and we are out of copies. We ordered fewer copies this year; we will have to readjust the order for next year.

**Acquisitions** - Willie reported that archive flyers and pamphlets are being added to the vertical files, making them more searchable by key words. Janet said that she has bulletins from funeral services that could be added to the archives.

**Nominating Committee** -

Erika and Martha met. Erika reported that Lise and Barbara's terms as trustees are up this year but they will keep their positions as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. She proposed nominating Martha Niemi and Mark Snyder to fill the two trustee positions. Janet Long moved that the clerk cast 1 ballot for the slate which includes Willie and Nancy as Co-Presidents. The slate was approved.

Emily Purdy from the library reported that 7 books have been awarded to participants of the history walk who completed the questionnaires on the back of the maps.

Nancy told the group about Emily's new proposed project involving post cards: The Youth Literacy Pen Pal Project. She is seeking donations of old, unused post cards for home schoolers. They will research the card. These cards can be from anywhere in the world. Bring donations to the library by September 22nd. She will also post details of the event on Front Porch Forum.

**Web Site:** A thanks to Kyle for his continued work on the web site. It contains an amazing amount of information including an online index for HRD and a Covid 19 blog.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2020. Zoom? Perhaps distanced in a large space? Think about it.