

GHS Board Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2021

Attending: Nancy Hill, Willie Smith, Lise Armstrong, Alison Gardner, Janet Long, Jenny Stoner, Martha Niemi, Paula Harmon, Kyle Gray, BJ Gray, Clive Gray, Leslie Rowell, Erika Karp

Submitted by: Alison Gardner, Temporary Secretary

President Report: An introductory tour of Archives after the meeting with Willie and Leslie is scheduled and will serve as today's meeting history moment. Thank you to the crews who cleaned the GHS building and to Jenny and all who worked on the newsletter from writing articles, to finding pictures and/or helping with the mailing. (Nancy asked to have a grateful thanks added for Alison and Lynette for extending the garden with daylily plants and weeding and special thanks to Lynette for the donation of many, many beautiful daylily plants.)

Later this month, David Brochu will bring the Fire Dept. to tour the GHS building on July 1st and introduce new members of the department to the building. Exhibitors, Janet Stewart and Ray Shatney, will set up their exhibit next Wed., June 16th. Janet Stewart was interviewed and featured on the "Cowboy Channel" RFD TV; permission has been obtained to run a video of the interview during the exhibit. Leo and Amelia Circosta have made an interactive activity for children attending the exhibit; they will be able to match pictures of the various types of cows with their names/descriptions. The Highland cow or calf that we requested for our Ice Cream Social may not be available, and, if not, we will request to have a cow or calf visit our exhibit opening on July 3rd and to march in the town's July 4th parade, if it is held.

Secretary Report: No changes to the minutes were suggested other than Wendy's suggestion regarding acronyms. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report: Over \$8,700 in donations thus far this year making this close to the amount budgeted in 2021. Everyone had not seen the treasurer report so we will wait until the next meeting to approve the 2nd quarterly budget report.

Committee Reports

Newsletter Committee: The newsletter Spring Issue was finished and sent to the town grand list, GA list and the GHS donors. Some positive feedback has already been received. It was nice to prepare the mailing in person. Newsletters are always returned so the mailing list should be updated. Thanks to Lise, Kyle and Clive who maintain the mailing list.

Hazen Road Dispatch: It is at the printer. An article about the current issue is being written by Gail for the Hardwick Gazette and the Chronicle.

Archives: Leslie deferred her report for the Archive/Collection tour after the meeting

Wed/Facebook: Kyle has logged in and scheduled a posting at 5pm today; he will continue to schedule things during the summer. June 8, 1816 (called "1800 and froze to death") it snowed in Greensboro, the posting is about this event.

Kyle has removed things on the web age side menu to make it more streamlined and less confusing—several projects included are works in progress and needs to stay the way they are. He will be meeting with Leo, Renee and Amelia to discuss the Barn Project.

Follow-up: Kyle will send the questions he generated for volunteers researching specific barns again.

The process for Kyle to receive information about GHS Summer events and post it on Instagram and Facebook is for Wendy to send Kyle copies of the Event posters she creates so they can be posted on FB and Instagram.

Follow-up: Wendy will send Kyle copies of the events posters so the information can quickly be posted on our FB and Instagram pages.

Building Report: Peter Romans gave permission for the painters to replace some old wood on the front porch. The painting is making the building look great! An alarm goes off to indicate that the septic tank is full. Lise has arranged for the septic tank to be emptied in August.

With the painting and cleaning work, the storm windows on the bay window on the front of the building were determined to be broken along the frame. Also some other windows do not have storm windows. Alison contacted Anna Kehler (Town Energy Committee) and Mark Synder who agreed to do a work through this fall to assess the weatherization and insulation needs. With VT's America Rescue Plan funding, the State has allocated increased funding for weatherization, thus it may be possible for the town (and GHS) to apply for grants. Members suggested having an energy audit of the building to better assess weatherization needs and options.

The dehumidifier in the Museum room is no longer working. It is still under warranty and given the history of malfunctions with this particular model of dehumidifier and the ability to receive a credit, it was decided to research a more reliable dehumidifier.

Follow-up: Schedule a time for Mark to do a work building walk through and energy audit early this fall.

Follow-up: Leslie and Alison will confer and find an energy-efficient reliable dehumidifier to purchase.

Updates

History Explorer Walk: Amelia Circosta has completed the editing of the building descriptions for the Greensboro Village Historical Walk and the ones for the Bend walk will be finished soon. Andy Purdy has made some new wooden placards to replace the broken ones and for the new buildings. The descriptions need to be laminated and attached to the placards and two brochures (including maps, questions and descriptions) need to be developed.

Follow-up: The Circostas will laminate the building descriptions at SPARK and the 2 brochures will be created (Nancy and Alison) and Wendy will do the design.

Follow-up: Amelia and Leo will be asked to write newspaper articles about the History walks for the Hardwick Gazette and the Chronicle.

Membership Initiative Committee: The MI Committee met in May and came up with some recommendations for publicizing our summer events and ideas for increasing membership and participation. They will reconvene in the fall and review donations, membership numbers, volunteers, etc. Members volunteered for the tasks during the meeting.

GHS Summer events will include “tabling”, i.e. information about GHS membership and volunteering and publications for sale, such as, HRD and a small selection of other publications

Follow-up: Amelia and Leo will write an article on the History Walk; Jenny will write short articles on the other events

Alison will send articles on GHS summer events to the Hardwick Gazette and the Chronicle; she will also create short Front Porch Forum postings on events and share them with Paula.

Paula and Marsha will post the event posters in G'boro and surrounding towns (Bend, Hardwick, Stannard); Alison will supply a list of places to post.

Jenny will post event posters in Craftsbury (the Genny, library, etc.)

Paula will post GHS event information on FPF (Hardwick/Stannard, Greensboro/Glover). Jenny will post the same information on the Craftsbury/Albany FPF page.

Grants: Leslie and Nancy worked on the GA grant this year. They requested \$1000 for three projects: the History walk, Barn Project and the publication of the updated booklet about the Greensboro Bend and Lamoille Railroads.

Alison has been researching grants for air purifiers for the GHS building. Operating such devices, will improve air quality and cutdown on the potential transmission of Covid and if we have then and advertise the fact, it could support more visitors (especially younger unvaccinated children). John Schweizer has given his OK for the GHS to apply for a Covid Relief Grant for this purpose. The Board approved Alison going forward and submitting a grant application.

(Questions were asked about running the air purifier with the door open. Since the meeting Alen, the air purifier company, has confirmed that it is possible to run their air purifiers with the door open and suggest placing it as far away from the open door as possible. Alen air purifiers have Energy Star ratings and will only be turned on when people are in the rooms so they shouldn't add a lot to our electric bill. Alen confirmed their quote of \$1,062 (including a 12% discount) for the 3 air purifiers (Museum Exhibit Room, Hill Legacy Collection, Archive room).

Publication Corner: An inventory was done of GHS Publications. This fall the inventory will be reviewed and decisions made regarding updating and reprinting, etc. Amelia and Leo are working on an updated version of the history of the Greensboro Bend Railroad. The Bookshop Corner needs sprucing up before the Museum opens.

Summer Plans

Museum Exhibit Opening Reception—July 3rd 3 to 5pm. Martha is organizing this event. Board Members will bring snacks and Martha will bring punch.

Museum Docents—all slots are filled except for Friday afternoon. Martha will ask Debbie Kasper if she is willing and available.

Docent training-- is scheduled for Wednesday, June 23rd at 10am to provide information on the Highland Cow and Hill Exhibits as well as the responsibilities of docents.

Follow-up: BJ will make a children's coloring book based on the exhibit.

Hinman Rd. Sign Dedication: Scheduled for Wed. July 21st at 10am Laura Trieschmann from the State will attend the dedication and walk on Hinman Rd. from the Ballfield through the village and beyond.

A committee of Nancy, Alison and Erika will convene and put together the HR events. **Ideas:** The walking women could delay their Wed. walk on the 21st and walk on Hinman Rd. from the Ballfield to the Freeman farm. The sign could be put in the ground earlier and covered. Also there could be a walk from the Freeman's to Glover on HR scheduled for another day. Potentially a descendant of Timothy Hinman could take the cover off the sign.

Ice cream Social: 2-4pm July 31st. Paula has contacted Smith's about placing the ice cream order. The flavors decided: moose tracks, maple walnut, vanilla. Volunteers: Lucy and her family, BJ to scoop and set-up.

Book Sale: 10-4pm July 31st... BJ has been working on culling books and will have this done by the 31st. Volunteers in 2-hour shifts: Nancy, Lise, Jenny, Alison, BJ, Erika (if possible).

Follow-up: Alison to ask Lynette if she can help. Erika will check with her son about lending us a tent.

Annual Meetings: August 9th 7pm at the Fellowship Hall or other location. Peggy Day Gibson and Gail Sangree will speak on Timothy Hinman. Board members bring cookies and snack.

Other Business

Museum Exhibit 2022: Clive noted that year is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Barr Hill Preserve, it is also the 30th anniversary of the founding of the GLT. He suggested that the VT Nature Conservancy, VLT and GLT jointly develop an exhibit commemorating conserved land, etc. A motion was made and accepted.

Nominating Committee: Jenny and Clive have agreed to form a nominating committee; no other member volunteered to join them. BJ and Erika are the trustees whose terms expire this year. Janet is considering resigning and will discuss this with the nominating committee. The co-presidents are also stepping down and a secretary needs to be nominated.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 14th (time TBA)

Archive Tour: The meeting adjourned and several members (Nancy, Erika, BJ, Alison) joined Leslie and Willie for an interesting and informative tour of the GHS archives.