

**Greensboro Historical Society  
Annual Meeting  
August 9, 2022  
Fellowship Hall**

The meeting was called to order by President, BJ Gray at 7:05 PM.

First item of business was a report by Nominating Committee, made by Martha Niemi. The slate of nominees presented was two trustees: re-election of Paula Harmon and Amelia Circosta for three year terms and re-election of officers: for three year terms: President: BJ Gray, Vice-President: Erika Karp and Treasurer: Lise Armstrong; for a one year term: Jenny Stoner: secretary. BJ asked for additional nominations from the floor. There were none.

It was moved to cast one vote for the slate. The nominees were elected

The President then gave a brief overview of the year's activities which included a great deal of collaboration with other organizations in town.

Alison Gardner introduced the evening's speakers on the *History of Land Conservation in Vermont*: Bob Klein and Darby Bradley. Bob Klein opened the Vermont office of the Nature Conservancy in 1977 and served as its first director until 2013. Darby Bradley helped establish the first land trust in Vermont, Ottauquechee Regional Land Trust in Woodstock, in 1977 and was instrumental in this evolving to the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) of which he became president. During his tenure the VLT helped conserve thousands of acres of farmland and forest throughout the state, including Brassknocker property in Craftsbury (which included land for 4Cs), and many others projects in Greensboro, Hardwick, Craftsbury and surrounding towns.

The fascinating talk was well captured by Hal Gray in the article below.

Minutes by Jenny Stoner, secretary

Land Conservation in Vermont  
by Hal Gray

Two pioneers in Vermont land conservation spoke August 8 at the Greensboro Historical Society Annual Meeting. Bob Klein, former director of The Nature Conservancy of Vermont, and Darby Bradley, former president of the Vermont Land Trust, took turns describing the roles their organizations played in Vermont land conservation. Bob distributed a timeline including such key dates as 1932 – the Green Mountain National Forest was declared (to stop uncontrolled logging, fires, and flooding); 1936 – rejection of the Green Mountain Parkway; 1962 – The

Vermont Nature Conservancy (TNC/V) chapter (formed in 1960) made its first purchase (Molly Bog); 1968 – The Vermont billboard law is passed; 1972 – The bottle bill, leading to can and bottle redemption is passed.

Bob noted the Philip Gray family donated 256 acres on Barr Hill in 1972 to TNC/V, which also owns some land around Greensboro's Long Pond. In fact these two areas represent TNC/V's approach to its land, with Barr Hill listed as one of TNC/V's 11 "Flagship Natural Areas" with easier public access, while Long Pond and bordering lands represent TNC/V's 58 more-ecologically interesting natural areas with more difficult access. Bob described Long Pond as one of the few such small ponds in Vermont and consequently is in need of protection. He noted that while TNC/V started in 1960 with volunteers, it eventually hired a development staff to generate the funds for purchasing land. Since 1960, the organization has conserved over 300,000 acres in Vermont while maintaining 58 natural areas totaling over 30,000 acres that are open to the public. TNC/V has helped with the acquisition of 23% of all state-owned lands, including wildlife management areas, state parks, and state forests.

Darby described the early years of the Vermont Land Trust – how the Ottaquechee Regional Planning Commission and the Hartland (VT) Planning Commission led to the Hartland Open Space Project which the town voters defeated. This in turn led to the emergence of the Ottaquechee Regional Land Trust in 1977 which nine years later would be renamed the Vermont Land Trust (VLT). VLT benefited from the 1970 passage of Act 250, Vermont's principle development control law. The 1987 creation of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board led to development of affordable housing and land conservation programs. Governor Kunin supported conservation, although the situation changed dramatically in 1991 when Howard Dean became governor and made land conservation the centerpiece of his "100 Year Plan." Darby added that with about 2,500 conservation easements, a major task is monitoring them to assure the conditions of their creation are being met. Local major land trust connections in our area include the former Brassknocker Farm in East Craftsbury on whose land the Four Cs is built, as well as the very significant support from the Freeman Foundation whose family lives in Greensboro.