



Greensboro Historical Society

Meeting Minutes (September 12, 2023)

10:00am @ the GHS and Zoom

Attending: BJ Gray, Erika Karp, Amelia Circosta, Lise Armstrong, Nancy Hill, Jane Johns, Renée Circosta, Paula Harmon, Willie Smith, Jenny Stoner, Jane Mercaldi, Clive Gray, Kyle Gray

To-Do in the Coming Months/Assigned Tasks

- ❖ Any and all
 - Volunteer to be a docent on Oct. 7th for our single open day (10:00-3:00)
 - Bring your ideas for the 2024 summer exhibit to our October meeting
 - Find *Hazen Road Dispatch* editor
 - Keep in mind how many hours you are volunteering and bring to next meeting
 - Volunteer to be at the GHS building for Halloween night
- ❖ (Skip) Clean GHS sign on the front of the building
- ❖ (Amelia) Make flier advertising Oct. 7th open museum hours, post @ Willey's and P.O.; request summer volunteer hour estimates via email; look at existing procedural manual downstairs; email group soliciting information/anecdotes for the VHS Achievement Award submission; change GHS window decorations; coordinate with BJ and Nancy on GHS tote bags
- ❖ (Renée) Create and distribute other publicity for Oct. 7th open museum hours; work with Amelia on procedures files; work with Amelia on Achievement Award; create draft "procedures" for annual/winter meetings; check on possible grants for website development; help with GHS window decorations; work with Nancy to get "grand opening" procedures; report back on Vermont 250th celebrations; check on flip boards
- ❖ (Nancy) Summarize "procedures" for "grand opening" events in July.
- ❖ (Kyle) Photograph exhibit by ~mid-October (for Achievement Award and GHS exhibit binder); put together binder documenting summer exhibit; invoice to Lise for video recorder; check for volunteer to help with back-end coding for website redesign
- ❖ (BJ) Send Kyle necessary information to update the website; summarize "procedures" for book sale and provide to Amelia; attend community Zoom re Halloween festivities and report back to group on needs/plans; youth membership card
- ❖ (Lise) Submit request to town for \$5,000 appropriation; start process of budgeting for next year
- ❖ (Paula) Summarize "procedures" for ice cream social and provide to Amelia.
- ❖ (Leslie) Look into a flipboard for land conservation panel display
- ❖ (Jenny) Present requests for newsletter submissions at next meeting

President BJ Gray called the meeting to order at 10:05.

Introductions: Everyone introduced him or herself and welcomed Jane Johns and Jane Mercaldi.

History Moment: BJ passed around a timeline of events in the history of Vermont Conservation, pointing out some of the most interesting dates (including 1878 when deer were reintroduced to Vermont and 1960 when the census revealed that people in VT finally outnumbered cattle). The group looked over the timeline and commented on more interesting dates.

Presidents Report:

New welcomes: BJ welcomed the new trustees (Skip Hoblin, Jane Johns, Mark Snyder, and Renée Circosta) and Secretary Amelia Circosta.

Thank yous: BJ thanked Skip for mounting the Historic Grange sign on top of the bookshelf (he will also clean the GHS sign on the front of the building) and Gail for her 23 years as editor of the HRD. Paula thanked the volunteer docents who made it possible to keep our museum open this summer, and she was thanked herself for helping to organize the docent program.

Museum fall opening: Nancy noted that we're going to be opening the museum for one day on October 7th from 10 - 3 so people who weren't here this summer can still see the exhibit. Anyone who wants to be a docent for any part of the day should reach out to Nancy. Amelia will make a flier to post at Willey's and the Post Office to advertise the open museum day, and Renée will create and distribute the other publicity (e.g., local papers, Front Porch Forum).

Fall wrap-up: We aren't going to clean up the exhibit until after Oct. 7th and will further discuss wrap-up at our next meeting. Kyle will take photos of the exhibit to use in our VHS Award of Achievement Application. There aren't any more school visits coming through (BJ contacted teachers at Lakeview but they do not have time for a visit). It was agreed that we should again create a binder documenting the summer exhibit, and Kyle agreed to handle this because he has many of the electronic files and photos. Renée will help gather the remaining electronic files.

Secretary's Report

Minutes approved: The minutes from the June and Annual meetings were approved as they were written.

Modifications to agenda form and process: Amelia said she is going to try to make the agendas more specific to each monthly meeting with more specific points to talk about so people know what we'll actually discuss at the meeting in case they want to prepare something. She is going to reach out to the core group towards the end of the month to see if there's anything specific anyone wants on the agenda. She can get written reports from people who can't come to the meeting if that is necessary.

Request for volunteer hour estimates: Amelia said that it would be a good idea to record estimates of total GHS volunteer hours for use in grant applications. She is going to send an email to the group requesting estimates for time spent over the summer, and, going forward we agreed to pass around a paper at our monthly meetings so people can write down estimates--but any reporting (verbal, email, Google Sheets [tracking file](#), paper form in the archives) will be welcomed. All hours spent on any work related to the GHS certainly count (including participating in our monthly meetings!).

Updates to website: Kyle agreed to update information on the website (for example with the new trustees and officers), and BJ is going to send him the necessary information. Kyle reminded us that anyone can post to the GHS Facebook page.

New procedure documentation files: The group agreed that it would be a good idea to start developing a procedure manual documenting what needs to be done to put on the annual/winter meetings, book sales, ice cream social, other presentations, museum opening reception, spring cleaning, and anything else. We would have a binder with all the information, and it would also be available on the shared GHS Google Drive. Kyle mentioned that Leslie has an existing procedure manual downstairs, so Amelia agreed to look at that and see what should be added to that or changed to avoid duplication.

Treasurer's Report: Lise was pleased to report that the Lyles Book Sales earned us \$548, and that the Ice Cream Social brought in \$43 profit. She said that we have done well compared to the budget. Lise will submit the request to the Town for the annual \$5,000 appropriation as soon as possible. The \$1,000 from the Greensboro Association has been received, and is earmarked to pay for Kyle's camera and video equipment. Lise checks the GHS Post Office box 2-3 times per week for bills, donations, etc.

Report on summer activities:

Annual meeting: The program came together very successfully despite the last-minute cancellation of the geology presentation and the switch to the flood theme. Discussing the flood seemed to make people feel better about the unfortunate event and informed the townspeople more about the situation. Kyle submitted the flood pictures we collected for the meeting to the Selectboard for their work with FEMA.

Book sales: BJ suggested that the last Monday of each month around 11:00 should be a standing time for book culling at Lyles Garage. All are welcome.

Ice cream social: Paula noted that in the future she needs another person to monitor inside the GHS Museum during the ice cream social.

Summer Exhibit:

What's next for the summer exhibit? Nancy reported that The Land Trust would like the GHS to keep and properly store the display items. We discussed having some sort of "[poster flip book](#)" where the panels from the summer exhibit could still be viewed by

visitors but be in a more compact format, available for viewing somewhere in the museum. Renée will look into this with Leslie and perhaps the Land Trust can contribute to covering the cost of the permanent display. It was also suggested that the digital file versions of the panels could be made into a small book of sorts.

Updating Hill exhibit: Nancy pointed out that the Hill exhibit timeline stops 20 years ago, and she suggested that it should be extended. There is room if the timeline wraps around the corner. We'll create a committee to gather information about what has happened in the past 20 years. Jenny pointed out that looking through GHS newsletters from that period could be a useful source of information.

Committee Reports:

Building and maintenance: Lise reported that the flood did not damage anything at GHS. She is investigating whether electrician Darren Richard could possibly come annually to check the building and/or be on call in the case of an emergency. Renée reported that we received a Cultural Facilities Grant from the Vermont Arts Council for the UV blocking shades in the Hill Exhibit area. In addition, window inserts will be available this month for additional windows around the building.

Archives: More information to come next month. Willie continues to clip *The Chronicle*, and Leslie has been saving the entire *Hardwick Gazette* digital PDFs. BJ noted that we still need to update the acquisitions form. The Collections Committee should report back next month.

Future summer exhibit: We brainstormed various ideas for next year including Greensboro geology, the railroad, women in Greensboro, and wastewater. A railroad exhibit would be relatively easy to generate from our recent research and past exhibits and would coincide with the revised grand opening of the Rail Trail. Renée mentioned that it would be nice to focus on a topic where we could use materials from the archives. Erika asked about possible tie-ins with any Vermont-wide 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence celebrations. Renée has information on this and will report back (though it is not for next year). Everyone was asked to bring more ideas to the next meeting for discussion.

Membership: Nancy noted that anyone who donates money or time to the GHS is considered a member. She also said that we continue to give the Greensboro history books to newcomers in town, and there have been very positive responses to this. We agreed that our Oct. 7th bonus day should at least be partially tailored to newcomers in Greensboro, and Amelia will reflect this in the advertising poster. BJ will work on developing a youth membership card.

Greensboro Bend Revitalization: Given the state of the rail trail after the flood, plans for putting in semi-permanent signs for the History Walk are on hold.

Website and Tech: Kyle would like the necessary information to update the website. He also mentioned revamping the whole website sometime in the future. Kyle will check on possibilities for help with back-end coding. Renée will check on possible grants for website redesign.

Hazen Road Dispatch: Nancy reported that Clay Simpson decided that he could not be editor. We do not currently have an editor for next year's *HRD*, and the latest we should find one is by January. There is the possibility of having a committee if we can't find one person who can tackle the whole project. Kyle said that he would be able to help with the formatting. It was agreed to ask around and check on this next month.

Other business:

Vermont Historical Society Award of Achievement: Amelia reported that the GHS can apply for an Achievement Award from the Vermont Historical Society for our land conservation exhibit. The award is given "For the creation of exhibits that reflect the imaginative interpretation of some aspect of local history, for educational or public programs that encourage the study and appreciation of local history, or for projects that encourage and incorporate civic or community engagement." Amelia can write the application (not due until March) but needs input from the group. Renée mentioned getting anecdotes from the docents that would demonstrate community engagement, a suggested element in the application. Amelia will send out an email to the group soliciting information.

New flags: The group got to see the two new GHS flags designed by Amelia that can go on display in the window, on the porch outside, or at the annual meeting/other presentations. They will also be used in the parade!

Bears: BJ requested that everyone keep their eye out for garbage strewn around behind the GHS building by bears that are getting into the Willey's dumpster.

GHS Tote Bags: Paula reported that some visitors said a GHS tote bag would make a nice purchase option. We will look into this, particularly because we are almost out of t-shirts.

Halloween celebrations: There is a Zoom meeting discussing Halloween celebrations in Greensboro on Oct. 14 @ 2:00. The GHS is normally involved in the festivities somehow. We'll need someone at our building Halloween night to hand out candy. BJ to report back.

President BJ Gray adjourned the meeting at 11:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Circosta (Secretary)

NEXT MEETING: Oct. 10th @ 10:00 at the GHS Museum and on Zoom