



## Greensboro Historical Society

### Meeting Minutes (April 8, 2025)

10:30 am @ the GHS Museum

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**Attending:** BJ Gray, Erika Karp, Paula Harmon, Renée Circosta, Leslie Rowell, Nancy Hill, Jenny Stoner, Lise Armstrong, Nan Perron, Jan Terwiesch, Willie Smith, Jane Hoffman.

#### *To-Do in the Coming Months/Assigned Tasks*

- ❖ *Everyone/anyone:* Write the Greensboro section of the Hill Exhibit timeline; work on assigned newsletter articles (see list below--**please tell Jenny ASAP if you cannot complete your assigned article(s)**); register for and attend the 2025 LLHSM Annual Conference in Middlebury (details below); mark the route of the railroad on the large map intended for the new bulletin board.
- ❖ *BJ:* Check with John Schweizer about any 250th celebrations planned by other groups in town.
- ❖ *Lise:* Coordinate with Jan to submit a request to the Selectboard for the funds needed for exterior garage maintenance.
- ❖ *Leslie:* Regarding the UV shades, write the required letter to the Selectboard and short blurb for the newsletter.
- ❖ *Amelia:* Help Renée with the Hill Exhibit timeline.
- ❖ *Renée:* Continue digitizing the Hill Exhibit timeline; work with Kyle on pamphlet for summer exhibit; coordinate with Becky on Hurst bench details for newsletter; check the archives database for WWII homefront materials; check the archives database for Bicentennial records that may be of use for the 250th celebrations; send GA grant folder link to Jan; make required label for UV blinds
- ❖ *Erika:* Check with area historical societies for possible 250th ideas or collaborations (Hardwick, Craftbury, Glover...)
- ❖ *Nancy:* Ask Dan Penrice to Zoom into our next meeting and tell us a bit about himself and his work on the HRD (in place of the usual History Moment); keep in mind the goal to update the HRD index in connection with publishing the 50th edition.
- ❖ *Jan:* Continue work on garage renovation; assemble the paperwork needed to solicit bids; coordinate with Lise on submitting a request for funds to the Selectboard; make digital overlay of possible Hurst bench locations; upload GA grant application to Google Drive folder provided by Renée.
- ❖ *Kyle:* Send necessary files to Renée for summer exhibit pamphlet; consider covering any remaining dairy farmers in the Life Stories video interviews.

*President BJ Gray called the meeting to order at 10:30am.*

**(1) Changes to Agenda:** No changes to the agenda.

**(2) History Moment (Erika):** Erika shared some interesting information about the history of Greensboro during World War II from our *First 200 Years* publication. Nancy added that she remembers collecting milkweed pods to provide materials for life vests.

**(3) President's Report (BJ):** BJ read "[To be of use](#)" by Marge Pierson plus a passage from the latest Vermont Historical Society *History Connection* newsletter about young historians and art. We also discussed some geographic history as reported in Vermont author Kevin Graffagnino's book *Ira Allen: A Biography* (recently featured at a Craftsbury Library author talk); we wondered whether, if Ira Allen had not owned land in Irasburg, Vermont would now be part of Canada rather than a US state.

**(4) Secretary's Report (Renée for Amelia):** The February meeting minutes were approved as submitted and volunteer hour estimates for the previous month were collected.

**(5) Treasurer's Report (Lise):** The financial reports were accepted as presented. Lise provided some options for renewing our current Certificate of Deposit, and it was decided that we would roll over the existing CD to the 7-month CD with 3.5% interest.

Renée requested that dividends be reported as income and explained the difference between dividends (income) and the level of the Vanguard account (asset) and why dividends should be reported as income even if they are reinvested.

Lise explained that the \$2,000 reported in the total *HRD* sales were not actually sales but rather was a special donation for an editor stipend. We all agreed that the \$2,000 should be reported under donations and labeled separately as applying to the *HRD* stipend. Lise will fix that next month.

**Tom Hurst Memorial Bench:** Becky Arnold joined us for part of this discussion. She provided a photo of the planned bench and we gave our feedback on the design and text. The planned text read "Tom Hurst - hometown hero - tireless walker and cookie baker." It was also thought that the bench should say "In Memory of..." and a date, though perhaps on a separate plaque rather than carved into the bench, which might seem too much like a gravestone. The separate plaque could be engraved metal attached to the side of the bench. Becky will discuss changing the text and/or adding a plaque with the rest of her group working on the bench.

Becky has been in touch with the town about locating the bench on town property. The dedication of the bench is expected to be this summer. The company doing the carving (Heritage Memorials of Newport) will also install the bench on a "prepared surface." Details of what that means are still pending, but it would appear that the area at least needs to be leveled.

Jan noted that the bench will be very heavy, and we may want to create a few images of the bench in different locations to see how it might look. He will do this. It was also suggested that we consider setting out chairs to mimic the bench to confirm the lines of sight for people sitting on the bench.

We also discussed extra donations that would come in to cover the bench. GHS would process the donations, and any extra donations are intended to be reserved by the GHS. Lise will determine how best to track that for next month. The bench will cost approximately \$3,200.

## **(6) Follow-Up From Previous Meetings**

**Winter meeting debrief:** The consensus was that the meeting went well and the graduates seemed to enjoy getting together. Erika noted that they may have a follow-up visit this summer, but that would be just an alumni activity. Perhaps Jane Johns will be able to facilitate that. Erika

also noted that most of our dairy farmers are gone and it might be nice to get them together to share stories in a similar format. Renée suggested that at a minimum Kyle could try to include any remaining dairy farmers in his Life Stories video interview series.

**Summer Exhibit Overview Pamphlet (Renée & Kyle):** Renée said that she can't do much without files from Kyle.

**Updates to *Rails to Trails* Exhibit:** Skip still needs to mount the new bulletin board. BJ wants to hang a large map of Greensboro Bend on the bulletin board, but we should label the path of the railroad, perhaps with pins and string, to make it more interesting. Jan provided a laminated color flyer describing the Greensboro milk can in the exhibit.

**2026 Summer Exhibit ideas:** We are settling on the idea of *The Homefront in Greensboro*, focusing on what Greensboro did during WWII and how our town became involved in the war effort. If anyone has ideas to contribute, please note them here: [Summer 2026 exhibit brainstorm](#). If you have photos, documents, or other digital resources to contribute, please email them to [secretary@greensborohistoricalsociety.org](mailto:secretary@greensborohistoricalsociety.org) or upload them here: [WWII Homefront 2026](#).

**250th Celebrations:** It was agreed that we should try to coordinate with other town groups and committees. BJ will check with John Schweizer to start. One idea was to read the Declaration of Independence. Renée said it might be interesting to have the elders of Greensboro (or anyone from Greensboro) read a line each and Kyle could make a video, like what was done by these actors: [Reading of the Declaration of Independence](#). Jan suggested that we check in the GHS archives for what we did at the Bicentennial and see if there are any activities we could repeat or recreate. We could try a Then-And-Now kind of display. Renée will check the archives. If anyone has ideas to contribute, please note them here: [250th Celebration Brainstorm](#). If you have photos, documents, or other digital resources, please email them to [secretary@greensborohistoricalsociety.org](mailto:secretary@greensborohistoricalsociety.org) or upload them here: [250 \(2026\)](#).

**Required publicity for Vermont Arts Council grant (Leslie):** Leslie will get out the letters to the Selectboard and write a short blurb for the newsletter. The letters to legislators can come out when the museum is open. Renée will make the required small laminated label for placement near the blinds.

**Updates to Hill Exhibit timeline (Renée):** This is in process.

## **(7) Committee Reports**

**Building and Maintenance: Garage renovation (Jan):** Jan has some tin sheets from the old Pope Store in the Bend to add to the evolved exhibit in the garage.

**Archives (Leslie & Willie):** The dehumidifier for upstairs has arrived and is awaiting the damp spring weather. Willie shared a "Lucid Chart" that is a good format for generating a family tree. Leslie provided an overview of the McFarlane collection that she has been working on. Materials include photos of the Greensboro Hotel as well as a collection of daguerreotypes. She also showed us a scrapbook from the former Methodist Church in the Bend, which might be of interest later as the Church is possibly transformed into a community center.

**Newsletter (Jenny):** Renée went over the graph of the monthly donations data, which showed clear spikes in donations after the fall newsletter and, to a much lesser extent, after the spring newsletter. We decided to still do a Spring newsletter. Jenny made the following proposal for articles and dates (revised as discussed). All **articles are needed by May 13.**

1. President's corner – **BJ**
2. Summer exhibit – **Kyle**
3. Annual meeting speaker – Tim Breen (The Great Maple Sugar Bubble) – **Nancy**
4. *HRD* overview – **Nancy**
5. Calendar (Dates/times to be confirmed by **Paula**)
  - Opening Reception – Sunday, June 29, 3 – 5 pm ?
  - Ice Cream Social – Saturday, July 26, 2 – 4 ?
  - Annual Meeting – Monday, August 4, 7:00
  - Book Sale July 26, 10 – 4
  - Museum hours: Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat., 10:00 – 2:00
6. In Memoriam – **Leslie**
7. Acknowledgment required by funder of the UV shades – **Leslie**
8. Membership renewal – **Jenny**
9. Facebook and webpage – **Kyle**
10. Tom Hurst bench – **Renée** with Becky
11. One room Schoolhouses – **Jan**
12. Greensboro Bend historic church update – **Jane?**
13. Info on GHS Bookstore, including past *HRD* for \$3 – **Renée**
14. Book Sale, request for books – **Jenny**
15. Announcements/stay tuned column: Garage renovation/request for donations – **Jan/Jenny?**
16. Bend Facebook Page – **Jane?**
17. Winter program – **Renée**

**Website and Tech (Kyle):** Tabled.

**Hazen Road Dispatch (Nancy):** The *HRD* Advisory Board will be meeting in about two weeks. Dan continues to do a great job organizing everything. We all agreed it would be nice to invite Dan to Zoom into our next meeting so the rest of the Board and volunteers can meet him. Nancy will ask him. An open question is whether we will be looking to Accura for help with the layout or if Paul Fixx will be able to do it.

Leslie noted that the *HRD* was indexed some years ago by a team led by Pat Haslem. We should plan to update the index soon for the more recent editions. It was noted that perhaps this would be a great goal to have to coincide with the 50th Anniversary edition.

## **(8) Other Business**

**GA Grant:** Jan submitted the GA grant to request funds towards the evolving garage exhibit and interior garage renovations. Renée submitted the required grant report to Greensboro Association.

**LLHSM Conference:** Renée noted that the [2025 LLHSM Annual Conference](#) is coming up Friday, May 9, at the Middlebury Inn in Middlebury. Details are available at the LLHSM website, and we can use our GHS membership to get discounted entry. This year's theme is Doing History, and topics include Communications With Your Audience; What's Your Local Identity; and Transforming Narratives: The Henry Sheldon Museum's Commitment to "Doing History" Differently.

**Town Hall:** Renée thanked Willie for her work in the 1980s to secure funding and manage the renovation of our Town Hall, and she reminded people of the upcoming Australian ballot vote on whether to sell the Town Hall.

**Old Stonehouse:** not discussed

*President BJ Gray adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:20 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Circosta for Amelia Circosta (Secretary)

***NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING: Tuesday, May 13 @ 10:30am at the GHS Museum and on Zoom***