

Minutes September 12, 2016

Attending Ann Harbison, Erika Karp, Clive Gray, Lisa Armstrong, Jenny Stoner, Marion Babbie, Lily McAteer, Ellen Celnik, Willie Smith, Nancy Hill, Kyle Gray, Janet Long,

Nancy Hill handed out Glover and Hardwick newsletters to admire

History Moment by Willie Smith – “Forest of Art” – the story of the red pine forest

In the 20's and 30's and 40's the CCC was commissioned to plant red pines on the farm fields in Vermont that were lying fallow since so many farms had gone out of business. The premise was as follows: the farm lands were no longer fertile and leaving them for nature to “take its course” was too slow and inefficient. Planting red pines, a native species that grew fast, could add biomass to the soil, and had some value “down the road”, was a way to go. In the 50's, with more farm closures, the Vermont soil bank took over this project.

Thousands of acres were planted in Vermont, including the abandoned farm fields at the Highland Lodge. David and Carol Smith enlisted the slave labor of their children and nieces to plant a 3-acre plot behind the Lodge in c 1956. The work was hot – putting seedlings in a groove made by a machine pulled behind a tractor. The trees lived up to their promise, growing fast and reclaiming the land. Many times over the years the advice to “thin” the trees went unheeded, until in January, 2014, the trees were growing too close together and were tall, spindly, with shallow roots. A snow storm followed by an ice storm weighed down the tops causing the trees to fall over tearing the shallow roots out of the ground, snapping the trunks in the middle and bending the trees down. The result

was a “pick-up-sticks” scenario, dangerous for loggers, making the forest unstable. Many of the pines had nailed in boards with art work created by the many children who had stayed at the Lodge – making a “Forest of Art”, magical to walk through and a constant source of memories and awe. There were trails for walking and skiing called “Wrong Way” and “Mistake” adding a frisson of excitement to any venture into the woods.

Kids made forts with the branches that had fallen down and fairy house with the pine needles and twigs. The woods were dark but magical and always had an aura of “Hansel and Gretel”. Slowly, over a two year period Mark Molleur and his dad, Gilles, began to cut down the trees which kept falling down on their own. One fell towards the Smith house and missed the deck by a few feet. After the slash has been cleaned up, there will, again, be a field – more fertile than the one that was planted. And the benefits “down the road”? Two years of work for the loggers. Red pine is now in plentiful supply with the forest all over the state maturing and not very lucrative at the lumber yards.

Treasurer’s report – Clive Gray - accepted

Minutes from the last business meeting – Cathie Wilkinson – accepted.

Does anyone want to volunteer to be secretary to fill out Gina’s term?

Tunbridge exhibit – Nancy reviewed the exhibit, thanked the volunteers

“The Power of Water” Exhibit - Kyle will photograph the exhibit and make prints for the exhibit album. Willie will assemble the album

Opening reception was great – people came and checked it out, Eric Freehart, foreman from Munson, the company which constructed the new water system in the village. He was given a water sample of town water in a commemorative bottle labeled by BJ Gray.

Docents – Marion met a lot of people – she stayed extra hours

People came from everywhere. What is the count?

(Since the meeting, Barbara Brooke has done the count:

Using the docent counts for attendance, here's what I have found:

The museum was open 17 days in July, 20 days in August, including Sept. 1 and Sept 3rd.

In July we had 167 visitors. We had 165 in August/Sept.

Total for summer: 332

Average per day: 9

Not bad really, considering we were only open 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon.

Willie added 30 more from two Lakeview classes that came in September)

Since people tended to come in at the end of a shift and we stayed open to accommodate them, maybe next year we shouldn't close for lunch?

Summer program reports:

Rick Yeiser stream Seminar was interesting and well-attended – could be a future meeting as well.

Dorothy Penar's Historic Preservation Seminar was very informative and outlined the steps to form a Historic Preservation committee in Greensboro.

The annual meeting on Greensboro's Chinahands had an attendance of close to 100 people – it has stimulated the

participants to work on the exhibit next summer. Kyle posted the video on our website.

Who would like to be on the committee to plan programs?

Ice Cream Social – Gina and Janet did an amazing job. Kids dipped the ice cream – fun for all. Need more help next year. (Willie was invaluable carrying all the ice cream back and forth to the Lodge freezer a few times) The social earned \$242.00 in donations.

Book Sale – again Janet and Gina did the bulk of the work. Thank you. \$777.00 was raised. Both of these events need more volunteers. Not only do they raise a decent amount of money, they also bring visitors in to see the exhibits and serve as a reminder to the community that the GHS exists.

Dylan LaFlamme and Joe Wood were mentioned. Why?

HRD summer sales – \$1165.00 incl. 40 yr. edition. Willey's sells the most.

Newsletter – The spring issue was great; thank you Jenny – For the next issue she needs the president's report, winter program write up, red pine forest write up, summer seminar and program write ups, Lakeview classes, profile, pictures.

Joan Alexander from Glover wants photos of Orange King and his family. He owned the house where Wallace Stegner lived in North Greensboro and owned most of the black hills. Late nineteenth, early twentieth century

Cathie researches the information requests that come in:

Richard Petty of No. Fayston collects Goodrich photographs.
At the desk at the Library ???

Fred Wright moved West from Greensboro. He has offered a handmade shawl from his Grandmother Helen Conant to the GHS.

Kyle – new computer works, website will get scanned again, gets backed up two times a month

Kyle will need to update computer images. Needs upcoming events for the website;

Lily needs them for Facebook which gets a few likes per month.

Kyle will update the GHS stationery

Presentation – Tim Nisbet was suggested to talk at the next meeting. Kyle will video.

Ann Harbison opened up the discussion of too many events in Greensboro – 3 green sheets both sides

Downtown Greensboro day – Kyle’s suggestion of putting all of the downtown events on one day each summer

Do we want to host neighboring societies again – this time including the rest of the Kingdom? Yes

Could be done this fall as a celebration of our 40th anniversary. Early November? Tuesday, November 1, potluck: Lily, Jenny, Willie, Nancy volunteered

Discussed names for our “Welcome Wagon” committee.

Adjourned 1:45 PM

Acquisitions