

GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, January 14, 2020 Greensboro Free Library

Present: Lise Armstrong, Clive Gray, Paula Harmon, Nancy Hill, Erika Karp, Lynette Courtney, Leslie Rowell, Janet Long, Willie Smith, Barbara Brooke

History Moment: Nancy told the group about her contact with Robert Fischer, a railroad historian/engineer. He emailed her regarding the account of the railroad coming to Greensboro Bend as described in *The History of Greensboro - The First Two Hundred Years*, written by a group of Greensboro residents and members of the Greensboro Historical Society. The account of the beginnings of Greensboro Bend and bringing in the railroad, according to the history book, had to do with a group of local residents and the town offering a bond of \$18,000.00 given as a show of support to the railroad if the route of the railroad would be changed to include Greensboro and what would become the "Bend." Mr. Fischer unequivocally said that this was NOT the reason the railroad diverted to the Bend; he maintained that it was completely an engineering necessity due to the area's topography. It just made better sense for the railroad to stay in the Lamoille River valley. After a discussion, the group concluded that perhaps it was a combination of these factors that led the to the P&O (Portland, ME and Ogdensburg, NY) line to lay tracks for the seven mile loop that gave the Bend its name.

Nancy also gave the group an update on the proposed sign for Hinman Road. The Greensboro Development Review Board (DRB) will consider the request if the GHS can get the land owner's permission. The ballfields has co-owners - one has signed off, one has not. Project status is in process.

Nancy also recognized "unsung heros." In particular she thanked Lise for putting up and taking down the Christmas tree at GHS, BJ for window decoration and countless others for their unfailing volunteering and support as needed throughout the year.

Secretary's Report: There were many little corrections to the Treasurer's report. She thanks the keen-eyed readers. The report has been edited.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa provided the group with two budgets: the first was Budget VS Actuals for calendar year 2019. The second was a year to date Budget VS Actuals for calendar year 2020. There was some discussion about insulated drapes and benches. Leslie volunteered to put together some insulated curtains. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Newsletter: Jenny is currently on vacation.

Archiving and Acquisitions: Willie read a list of current acquisitions to the group. Items included old checks from the Highland lodge, a quilt, a town tax appraisal, an arial photograph, a match book from Willies store among other items.

Leslie spoke about the scanning project. Willie is also working on tabbing files for readability, managing vertical files and pulling accessions.

Leslie also mentioned putting together a procedures manual for research. She'd like to create a search guide that could be used to easily navigate the system and files. This would put us in a better position for outreach.

Nancy commented on the need to open our monthly group meetings and overcoming the perception that we are a tight, exclusive little group of women.

Building Update: Nancy provided estimates to the Select Board for floor refinishing and exterior building painting for consideration of Capital building projects in the upcoming fiscal year.

She also said that Fire Chief Dave Brochu would be looking in to see the layout of the archives at GHS.

Leslie said that she noticed a spike in humidity in the GHS building. There were two windows open. Nancy got two pieces of plastic that didn't fit. We are on the list for Anna Kehler's energy efficient windows workshop for fall of 2020.

Nancy reported that Meg Campbell of the Preservation Trust of Vermont recently conducted a building inspection. She suggested that we designate an exterior building inspector. There were nominations to elect Kyle, since he was not in attendance.

Summer Program: Janet and Ray Shatney of Greenfield Highland Beef will be part of the summer exhibit at GHS in 2020. They would like to see the space that they can use. A discussion about cattle ensued. Cattle/cows is a huge topic. Should we add information about different breeds of cows? Perhaps interview local farmers. What about oxen? Barbara said she'd ask the Cabot Co-op if they could possibly provide general information about cows.

Annual Meeting: Willey suggested checking out the UVM digital archive of images of 200 years of the changing face of Vermont. She suggested Paul Bierman as a speaker on this subject for the meeting.

Nancy mentioned that there was a need to evaluate the reprinting/stocking of books that we sell during the summer months, particularly the book: A View From the Rock.

Clive mentioned a timely recent article in VT Digger about town representation in the House of Representatives. Until 1965, the Vermont House had 246 members, one for each town in the state. There are 150 members now. The article was in the January 12, 2020 edition.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 12:30 at the Greensboro Free Library.