

**GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING BY ZOOM
OCTOBER 13, 2020**

Present: Nancy Hill and Willie Smith, co-presidents; Lise Armstrong, Alison Gardner, BJ Gray, Clive Gray, Paula Harmon, Leslie Rowell, , Gail Sangree, Jenny Stoner

It was Nancy's turn to chair. With Secretary Barbara Brooke visiting her daughter in Florida, Clive was asked to take minutes.

Meeting of Vermont Local Historical Societies.

Nancy invited members to tune in on October 30 and 31 to the Annual Meeting of the League of Local Historical Societies and Museums (virtual). The meeting will discuss how local societies can adapt to the COVID-19 crisis. Please let Nancy know if you need the link to register.

Historical moment.

Nancy spoke about the Pope Hardware Store in Greensboro Bend, which burned on May 17. The remains were removed last week, and the ground has been smoothed over. The building had been bought most recently on speculation by a resident of California. Until several years ago it functioned as an apartment building. In early days, owners typically lived on the second floor above their stores. A 1984 interview with Hazel Pope Gile described her growing up in the building. The store was a hub of the Bend. In addition to hardware, it sold millinery.

September 8 minutes.

Approved unanimously. The question was asked whether only trustees were entitled to vote. Nancy replied that the practice is for all attendees to vote on issues at monthly meetings.

Treasurer's report.

Lise summarized the report she had previously emailed to attendees. Income thus far is \$7,140.97 against 2020 budget of \$16,800.00, expenses are \$11,840.95 (budget: \$20,242.00), net operating income \$-4,699.98 (budget \$-3,442.00). Town Meeting appropriated \$5,000, but this will be available only after taxes come in.

Clive suggested adding a small table of GHS assets, showing current bank, Vanguard and Community Loan Fund balances compared with balances at January 1 and preceding month. Lise said current data was given in notes to her table, but agreed to prepare an additional table.

Refinishing the floor cost \$1,500, leaving only \$3,500 for painting out of the Town grant. We received one bid of \$8,300 for painting and another one below \$5,000, but the low bidder is not certified for asbestos removal. Willie moved that we ask the 2021 Town Meeting for another \$5,000. Motion adopted unanimously.

We asked the Greensboro Association for \$1,000 under its grants program. Purpose: archiving, and continued work on biography files. Leslie had sent in the application, but the money has not been received to date. Lise will check with John

Schweizer of the Greensboro Association. We did not apply to the Pleasants Fund in 2020 (in 2019 it gave us money for the Nursing Home book.)

Historical walk: Our summer exhibit in Greensboro Village and the Bend village

More people did the walk than handed in forms to receive the Green Book. We will decide this winter whether to repeat the Walk in 2021. We could change the Walk by going down other streets. Allison suggested putting more info on the posters and using the Walk to attract people to the GHS building and induce them to buy more of our publications. Janet said the Walk poster incorrectly pointed to the former Lyles garage, whereas the historical building was her residence. Willie said she had consulted the GHS archives and found info on all the old buildings in the Village. For example, 83 Cemetery Ridge was a blacksmith shop. The posters will be picked up at end-October.

Summer hours.

Few visitors came on the Saturdays we were open. We will consider not having regular open hours in 2021, depending on the pandemic.

HRD

Gail said that the only article so far in hand for 2021 is a Simpson-Stone article on textbook-publisher Ben Sanborn.

We had only 150 HRD copies printed this year. Could have sold more and Willey's ran out. The 2020 HRD was not reviewed in the Gazette, which could have stimulated even more desire for sales. We have approached other stores, but no interest. In 2006 Willey's took two full boxes, Galaxy sold 14 copies. In 2021 we should announce the HRD in FPF and approach the Craftsbury General Store. Jenny proposed that we print 225 copies in 2021; meeting approved.

Possible 2021 Summer program.

Clay Simpson has proposed a summer meeting on Wallace Stegner.

History Walk on Barr Hill Road

Members proposed a walk up the road to Barr Hill Nature Preserve for the public on Sunday afternoon, October 25 at 2 p.m. Willie, who has previously led many school groups on the walk, would lead the group to visit Baker Hill cemetery, cellar holes, etc. BJ will work on the cemetery data. (Gina Jenkins has put monument data on line, and BJ will combine that with bio data.) Nancy will do publicity for the walk.

Newsletter.

Jenny has supplied a list of topics. If we want to print by December 1, deadline for articles is Nov. 15.

The meeting discussed possible additional topics for the newsletter including an article about how Greensboro is handling COVID-19 which is history in the making: Signs at Willey's. Community response. Compare with 1918 flu pandemic. Historical Walks (both summer and Barr Hill Walk). Nancy will do president's report.

Annual Winter Meeting.

We will decide whether or not to hold this at November board meeting.

Building & maintenance.

Nancy has prepared a “Maintenance Manual” that covers contacts for different services, phone numbers, etc. One copy is downstairs at the Archive Desk by the computer, and another at the Docent Desk upstairs.

We now have two dehumidifiers, since Sears replaced the one in the Archives Room that was under warranty when it failed. We purchased another to use until the replacement arrived, and after it came, the new one is being used upstairs on the main floor. Leslie has turned off the dehumidifier downstairs since heat there makes it already dry in winter.

Acquisitions,

Leslie works one day a week. She is taking a graduate course in archiving. Willie said we need a digital system for accessing articles. We have received a box of documents from the Frank Emanuel family and two boxes from Pat Haslam’s family. Kyle will continue to work on website, indexing HRDs.

Bylaws.

These date from 2003. Alison, Lise, and Nancy will review and bring any proposed changes to the next meeting.

Winter displays

We will ask the library if they would like us to do an exhibit there sometime this fall or winter, perhaps using items from the GHS window to erect a display of the Suffragette movement in Greensboro, including names of women who took the Freeman’s Oath in 1920. BJ suggested dressing up a period doll. Can we find 1920s clothing?

BJ will do a window display for the GHS Building this fall, until the Christmas tree is assembled there in December.

Greensboro History — the “Green Book”

Since it was written 35 years ago, updating is needed. Does anyone know someone who would like to continue writing the history?

Next board meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 12:30 (Virtual)

Respectfully submitted,
Clive Gray