

Greensboro Historical Society
Annual Meeting
August 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order by my co-president Nancy Hill at 7:05. She outlined the many accomplishments of the Society during the last year and thanked the many volunteers who carried out all the work and activities. This included a thank you to the Town of Greensboro that paid for painting of the outside of the building.

Lise Armstrong, treasurer, gave a report that donations have been very generous and expenses well in line. The recent Ice Cream social earned \$421 and the Book Sale \$641.

Jenny Stoner presented the report of the Nominating Committee.

First, the committee recommends suspension of two bylaws. One saying that the Officers should not also be counted as trustees and the second stating that the term of officers is 3 years. We are proposing that one elected trustee also be an officer and that the officers this year be elected for a one-year term. **It was moved seconded and voted to suspend these two by-laws.**

Nominations for trustees were:

For the class of 2024 ; BJ Gray, for a second term, and Debbie Kasper for a first term.

For the class of 2022: Amelia Circosta for a first term

For officers:

President : Alison Gardner

Vice-President: BJ Gray

Secretary: Jenny Stoner

Treasurer: Lise Armstrong

Both trustees and officers were elected by unanimous vote. .

Thanks were expressed for the dedication and work of outgoing trustees Janet Long and Erika Karp and for the outstanding leadership of out-going co-presidents Willie Smith and Nancy Hill.

This concluded the business meeting and Allison introduced the first speaker on *Timothy Hinman: Hero or Rogue?* Peggy Day Gibson. Retired director of the Orleans County Historical Society.

She spoke of Hinman's many accomplishments. Born in Connecticut in 1761 at age 15 he joined the Revolutionary Army and learned surveying. After the war he came to Vermont, surveying. He built a log cabin in Greensboro and then surveyed a road to Derby over a 3 year period. He organized the town of Derby, sold many land holdings and became a leading citizen and even a county judge and state legislator. Land owners financed the road with taxes of 1 cent per acre.

The Hinman Road eventually became the stage coach road from Boston to Quebec City. Peggy then presented many more details about the Hinman Road both historic and present.

Then Gail Sangree, who has done extensive research on Timothy Hinman spoke on other aspects of his life. He was an entrepreneur who went to the state legislature to obtain permission to create the town and then became owner of over 6700 acres in Derby. In addition to many civic responsibilities, he had a tavern and a store. He had trouble keeping straight which funds were his and which the town's..

Gail explained the use of "day books" : a record where townspeople kept track of what jobs or items they had bartered and what they owed and were owed by others. She was able to see and study Hinman's day book from 1798-1809. He got in trouble when he borrowed an enormous sum of \$11,000 dollars from the Vermont State Bank in Burlington and was not able to repay it. The case was taken to court, where he was the Chief Judge. However, that was changed, and Samuel Crafts replaced him as judge. He went to prison first in Craftsbury, then in Danville. He spent several years in prison before returning to Derby. His plans for trade with Britain through Canada were stopped by the embargo President Jefferson established relating to events of the war of 1812. However he did seem to regain acceptance, although he was never a merchant again. He returned to Derby and was engaged to work on the state constitution in 1832. He died in 1850. His tombstone, inscribed later, called him a "faithful, honest, just and good man."

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Stoner