



Greensboro Historical Society

Meeting Minutes (February 13, 2024)

10:00am @ the GHS and Zoom

Attending: BJ Gray, Erika Karp, Amelia Circosta, Renée Circosta, Lise Armstrong, Nancy Hill, Jane Johns, Debbie Kasper, Skip Hoblin, Paula Harmon, Willie Smith, and Clive Gray, plus Jane Mercaldi and Jenny Stoner on Zoom.

To-Do in the Coming Months/Assigned Tasks

- ❖ Everyone: Contribute food and/or drink to the winter meeting; keep an eye out for vintage signs; someone please volunteer to update the Greensboro history section of the GHS timeline.
- ❖ BJ: Write application for GA grant and submit the grant request.
- ❖ Jane: Check for models of Greensboro Bend buildings to use as part of the summer exhibit; post request on Around the Bend Facebook page for railroad memorabilia.
- ❖ Amelia: Add recent volunteer hours to spreadsheet; make and post winter meeting flyer (send to Jane as well); work on St. J & LC railroad fact sheet to post at rail trail kiosk in the summer; work on Vermont and US history sections of the GHS timeline; do HRD cover when requested.
- ❖ Nancy: Start research on the Hill homestead section of the GHS timeline.
- ❖ Lise: Check with Leslie about a key to the man door on the storage shed.
- ❖ Renée: Reach out to Shawn Messier and Art Brochu to request that they send to their groups the publicity about the Winter Meeting program; provide BJ with documentation from last year's GA grant request; assist with Vermont and US history timeline development; work on policies and procedures files.
- ❖ Skip: Take down the panels and put them in the art rack.
- ❖ Kyle: Set up meeting for summer exhibit committee.

President BJ Gray called the meeting to order at 10:05.

Changes to Agenda: No changes.

History Moment: Jane Johns told the group about her adventures into the woods off of the Rail Trail in Greensboro Bend to discover the old coal sheds. In their time, the St. J and L.C. Railroad coal sheds in Greensboro Bend were marvels of engineering. They used to be visible from the train station itself, but the area is wooded now. With a mini trifold presentation, Jane showed us pictures of the remaining concrete pillars and even some pieces of coal still left in the woods.

President's Report (BJ):

LLHSM Virtual Roundtable: Storytelling and Publishing: BJ attended the LLHSM Virtual Roundtable Zoom meeting late this January. She described for the group one idea they discussed about questions you can ask when analyzing a photograph.

Secretary's Report (Amelia):

Approve January minutes: The January meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report (Lise):

Approve January report: The treasurer's report for January was approved as submitted.

GA grant: This is an annual grant opportunity from the Greensboro Association that the GHS typically receives to fund various specific projects. If we want to request the grant this year, we need to have decided how much money we want to request and how we will use this money. Note that this grant is not for salaries or building improvements. One suggestion was to use it to improve a part of our summer programming, but we do not have anything specific enough developed yet. (The grant application deadline is March 15.) BJ volunteered to apply for the grant and submit it before our group meets in full again. Renée did voice one concern about applying for another GA grant given that we requested money from them a couple of years ago for improving and republishing Jan Travers' railroad booklet, but we have not been able to actually carry through with that yet. It might make sense to explain to the GA what is going on with that project. She also noted that we need to tie off last year's grant documentation with a statement indicating that the video recorder (partially funded by the GA grant) was purchased and a description of how it has been used.

Railroad fact sheet: As we discussed the GA grant money for the railroad booklet, a suggestion came up that because the improvements on the full railroad booklet are not yet completed, we could create a fact sheet with a bit of information about the St. J&LC railroad as it relates to The Bend. There is a kiosk going up in midsummer between Warren Hill's and the Depot, and the fact sheet could be posted there. Amelia will pull information from the existing railroad booklet to create a fact sheet. There are existing kiosks in Morrisville and Danville; we can look at those to get a sense of the sizing and content of other rail trail kiosks, as there are specific guidelines we will need to follow with our postings.

Follow-up from Previous Meetings

Summer 2024 Exhibit: Renée brought in the binders that she compiled from various resources that include lots of pictures and information on the St. J &LC that will undoubtedly be useful when we start designing the exhibit. BJ has a wooden toy train for Kid's Corner, and Renée said that she can loan the museum a train table for the summer. Someone suggested that we ask in the newsletter for any and all railroad memorabilia that could be used in the summer exhibit.

Jane's family might have models of local buildings, such as the Depot in The Bend; she will check for items to loan to the exhibit. She will also post a request for any railroad memorabilia on her "Around the Bend" Facebook page.

Winter Meeting: The Winter Meeting committee has confirmed that we will have Shawn Messier and friends to talk about snowmobiling, and Art Brochu to talk about ice fishing. They will be bringing gear, photos, stories, maps, etc. We will have to start on the publicity for the winter meeting next week. Amelia will make the advertising flyers to post at the usual places, but we will also ask the two speakers to reach out to their respective groups to draw in different people. Jane said that she'd like to have the flyers emailed to her so that she can post them to "Around the Bend" as well. We also discussed refreshments for the meeting--we will all pitch in with making snacks, bringing drinks, setting up, and cleaning up. Paula will bring coffee.

LLHSM Achievement Award: Renée submitted the required paperwork for our nomination. We will hear around April if we received an award.

Vintage sign acquisitions: We have a sign from the Methodist Church, thanks to Nancy. Skip was wondering if we should try to preserve the signs in their current condition, or if he should try to restore them to a better condition. The group agreed that much of the interest is in the fact that they look old, so they should be preserved as is. There is the possibility that we might be able to get a vintage Highland Lodge sign, and Erika suggested we could ask Willey's if they have any old store signs that they would want to donate to our collection.

Committee Reports:

Building and Maintenance: The man door into the storage shed got locked somehow. Lise will check with Leslie about a key.

Archives: Leslie sent an email update to the full group about what has been going on in the archives. For our history moment at next month's meeting, we will take a tour of the archives to see the various improvements. While we were on the topic of archives, Nancy noted that the historical society should document what the Greensboro community does for the eclipse this year.

Newsletter: Nothing to report.

Website and Tech: Nothing to report.

Hazen Road Dispatch: Nancy said that we still need more articles, and that articles need to be sent to the publishers by April 15. We do already have some excellent articles lined up, including one by Lisa Sammet about Green Mountain Farm and one by Paul Wood about the steam mills in East Hardwick. Erika suggested that it might be worth having an article documenting the recent flood in Greensboro and how the town was affected/what we had to do about it. We still need to figure out the cover for the HRD. Amelia will handle the design once a decision has been made.

GLT Permanent Display: The rolling art rack was bought and assembled; the panels can come down and be placed in the rack for viewing. We will decide where to put the rack after the summer exhibit is in place.

Hill Family timeline: There are various sections of the Hill Family timeline, and each part needs to be updated. For example, the font can be smaller so that there is room for more information, the font can be updated to a more modern look, and the timeline can be brought up-to-date. Amelia and Renée volunteered to start the Vermont and US history portions and Nancy is going to research the section on the Hill homestead. (That leaves the Greensboro history section still available.)

Other Business:

Tote bag cover design: The Lakeview teachers have their kids working on “toad bag” designs. We need to find a company that will print the bags. BJ also mentioned that she printed a stack of GHS junior membership cards to give to children who have participated with the GHS in some way. The cards feature the “Lakeview Trout,” which was drawn by a student at the school.

Policies and Procedures: Renée made the procedures file for the book sale and will continue to work on other documents this month.

President BJ Gray adjourned the meeting at 11:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia Circosta (Secretary)

NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING: April 9, 2024; 10:00am @ the GHS Museum and on Zoom