



Greensboro Historical Society
Meeting Minutes (May 14, 2024)
10:30am @ the GHS and Zoom

Attending: BJ Gray, Amelia Circosta, Erika Karp, Lise Armstrong, Nancy Hill, Jane Johns, Paula Harmon, Leslie Rowell, Kyle Gray, Nan Perron, Jenny Stoner, Willie Smith, and Skip Hoblin, plus Clive Gray on Zoom.

To-Do in the Coming Months/Assigned Tasks

- ❖ Everyone: Please contribute any time, ideas, or materials for the summer exhibit. Remember to watch for any St.J&LC/Greensboro Bend railroad memorabilia and stories. See Kyle for more information on how to get involved. Think about possible events/activities that could happen in Greensboro for the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. in 2026.
- ❖ Nancy: Update the Hill Family sections of the Hill exhibit timeline (meeting with Laura Hill, etc.)
- ❖ Renée and Amelia: Update the US and VT sections of the Hill exhibit timeline.
- ❖ Amelia: Write newsletter article about Winter Meeting; start on materials for summer publicity.
- ❖ BJ: Thank you note to Hardwick Historical Society.
- ❖ Kyle: Update website with various event information and Winter Meeting video; send Amelia Snowmobiling Winter Program pictures for inclusion in newsletter article; continue work on summer exhibit.
- ❖ Jane Johns: Write newsletter article about Rail Trail trailhead in Greensboro Bend and related RT construction projects/repairs that have resulted in local closures.

President BJ Gray called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

Changes to Agenda: Move history moment (archives tour with Leslie) to the end of the meeting.

President's Report (BJ):

New vocab: BJ described the word “vellichor,” and how it portrays the feelings of entering Janet Long’s book “emporium.”

LLHSM Award: Several GHS representatives went to the LLHSM Annual Meeting at the Hotel Coolidge in White River Junction to receive our Award of Excellence. Nancy showed the group the paper copy of the award. Jenny said that there was a brief presentation about our exhibit with many of the pictures that we submitted in our application.

Secretary's Report (Amelia):

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

Volunteer Hours: Volunteer hour estimates were collected for work done in the past month.

Treasurer's Report (Lise):

Items of Note: Skip asked why there was such a big jump in "Archiving, computer services, genealogy." Lise explained that this was pretty much entirely due to Leslie's raise in pay. Lise pointed out that we are down on donations quite a lot compared to where we were last year, but this will likely go up again once the newsletter goes out.

Approve April report: The Treasurer's report for April was approved as submitted.

Follow-up from Previous Meetings

Summer 2024 Exhibit: Progress is being made on the exhibit, and Kyle has been gathering materials and content:

- Jane Johns has given him lots of photos for the exhibit related to the Rail to Trail Program (for example, pictures of cranes putting in bridges, or work on the overpass at the bottom of Stannard Mountain). Kyle is thinking that the Rail to Trail program information will be one of 12 major panels making up the exhibit. The group got to see a version of a banner portraying Bend history, which will be painted on a mural at the trailhead--and we will display a version of it in the exhibit.
- Kyle also has a video from Mark Snyder of a machine that cleans railroad tracks, and he has been working towards assembling interviews from people recollecting their memories of the train and railroad in Greensboro Bend.
- Part of the exhibit will also be a still shot from a 1988 movie called *The Wizard of Loneliness* that includes the Greensboro Bend railroad station.
- Mark Snyder brought some items (such as a conductor's hat and an authentic Dietz lantern) for display in the museum.
- Mark and Kyle talked with a railroad enthusiast in St. Albans, who gave them the names of a couple of people in Morrisville who could maybe help us or give us more information.
- We decided against having any conductor hats available for kids because of lice.

Paula reported that she is all set and has the docents for the summer exhibit organized. There will be a docent training session at the GHS museum on June 18th @ 10:30 am that all docents should attend, and Leslie will give another archives tour at that time as well.

The museum will be open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, starting after our opening reception on June 30th.

Significant GHS events during this summer are:

- The 2024 summer exhibit opening reception: June 30, 3:00 - 5:00 pm @ the GHS Museum.
- The Ice Cream Social and Book Sale: July 27th @ the GHS lawn and Janet Long's Garage.
- The GHS Annual Meeting, *Geology Rocks!* August 5th, 7:00 pm, @ Fellowship Hall of the Greensboro United Church of Christ.

League of Local Historical Societies and Museums Annual Meeting: The GHS belongs to this League, headed by Eileen Cochran. The League continues to get bigger and more active. At the annual meeting, our GHS representatives (thanks Nancy, BJ, and Jenny!) not only received the Award of Excellence but were also able to attend various classes/workshops related to collections training, getting kids involved in historical society activities, etc. BJ gathered several worksheets related to teaching “object literacy” to kids, which might be included in the summer exhibit. Jenny noted that there is an award given by the LLHSM for historical society websites and wondered if we could earn this.

GHS Annual Meeting: We have space reserved at the Greensboro United Church of Christ from 6:00 - 9:00 pm on August 5th. The *Greensboro Rocks!* presentation will start at 7:00 pm, when Dr. Robert Merrill will discuss the geology of Greensboro, from Rocking Rock to Pulpit Rock to the ledge carved by a glacier on top of Barr Hill. We discussed the possibility of a guided tour to Rocking Rock. Thank you Nancy for getting this all organized!

Committee Reports:

Building and Maintenance: Leslie discussed the possibility of a film on the windows and/or a blind that comes down over the windows. A community facilities grant that we worked on last year from the Council of the Arts would cover \$1,600 of this.

Archives: Leslie has been working on making more space available in the archives and has been accessioning new items. Willie has been typing captions for *Hardwick Gazette* photos sent from the Hardwick Historical Society. Typing the captions and adding them to the digital catalog makes the information digitally searchable. BJ will send the Hardwick Historical Society a thank you note for the photos.

Newsletter: Jenny needs an article written about the Snowmobiling Winter Program, and Amelia will do this. Leslie will compile the *in memoriam* section for the newsletter. Jane Johns will write an article about the Greensboro Bend Rail Trail trailhead, including a bit of information about the construction on the Rail Trail near the Bend. Remaining newsletter articles/additions should be sent to Jenny as soon as possible or at least during the next week. We discussed if there is anything new in the GHS bookstore to highlight in the newsletter, but it doesn't seem like anything will be included.

Website and Tech: Kyle will soon update the website with the Winter Program video, specific information and pictures for the Annual Meeting, and dates/times/locations of other GHS events this summer.

Hazen Road Dispatch: Nancy reported that she, Stephanie, and Alison have worked to make it possible to have an HRD for this year! The lead article will be by Mateo Kehler about starting Jasper Hill Cheese and the history of the company. Other articles include the history of water-powered mills in East Hardwick, as well as several book reviews. Note that there won't be any color photos in this year's addition to keep costs lower.

Hill Family timeline: Amelia reminded the group that she and Renée will work on updating the Vermont and U.S. sections of the timeline, and that Nancy is doing the Hill family section, but that a volunteer is still needed to update the Greensboro section. BJ, Erika, and Kyle volunteered to be a committee to work on it together, although there was also discussion as to whether someone outside of the GHS could work on it.

Other Business:

Tote bags: The tote bags are ready for pick up in Burlington. There is a toad on the front of the bags, and they say GHS and Lakeview Elementary artists.

2022-23 Summer Exhibit Binder: Kyle has the exhibit binder in process for *Saving Land, Saving History: 50 Years of Land Conservation in Greensboro*.

Lakeview School: Erika has been keeping up with the meetings and changes surrounding Lakeview and planned transfers of students to Hardwick and will report to the GHS group about what is happening, because it will have historical significance.

250th Anniversary of the U.S.: Coming up in 2026! The Vermont Historical Society has \$1,000 grants for celebration pre-planning. The organizations in town could get together to discuss plans, and we can also brainstorm ideas at our next meeting. The next round of grant applications is due July 15.

President BJ Gray adjourned the meeting at 11:55 am.

History Moment: Leslie gave the group a tour of the archives after the meeting was adjourned, showed us parts of some recent projects, and gave us a view of some of the workings of the archives.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia Circosta (Secretary)

NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING: June 11th, 2024; 10:30am @ the GHS Museum and on Zoom