



Greensboro Historical Society
Meeting Minutes (June 11, 2024)
10:30am @ the GHS and Zoom

Attending: BJ Gray, Amelia Circosta, Erika Karp, Lise Armstrong, Renee Circosta, Nancy Hill, Paula Harmon, Leslie Rowell, Jenny Stoner, Skip Hoblin, and Nan Perron.

To-Do in the Coming Months/Assigned Tasks

- ❖ Everyone: Bring snacks, cookies, crackers, etc. for the Opening Reception; stay tuned for time to help spring-clean the museum; meet at GHS to complete the newsletter mailing (Friday 6/14, 11:00).
- ❖ Nancy: Finalize HRD; 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; set up summer exhibit.
- ❖ Amelia: Make summer publicity flyers for Ice Cream Social & Book Sale, Museum Opening, Annual Meeting, Gebbie Sugar on Snow Fundraiser, *Hazen Road Dispatch*; make “Who We Are” GHS rack cards; make labels/captions for Rail to Trail Exhibit items once information has been provided; provide periodic reminders to the group for summer tasks and needs.
- ❖ BJ: Buy plates, napkins, etc. for Opening Reception; set up a nominating committee.
- ❖ Kyle: Continue work on the summer exhibit.
- ❖ Renée: Look into possibility of a railroad/train flag for the GHS front window; order coal sample for inclusion in the exhibit; provide Nancy with *HRD* pricing information for Willey’s; newspaper and other publicity announcements for opening and summer programs; set-up train-themed storywalk; buy train books for Kids’ Corner; mount light-up board images.
- ❖ Leslie: Find old mail in the archives (e.g. Penny postcards) for inclusion in the exhibit; work with Kyle on presenting Davis Store information in the exhibit.
- ❖ Jenny: Look into finding vintage cat carrier for inclusion in the exhibit; check on whether the children’s “train” used in the Craftsbury parade could be used at GHS during the ice cream social.
- ❖ Paula: Contact Martha Niemi re. making punch for the Opening Reception; docent training.
- ❖ Skip: Prepare truck for Funky Fourth parade (and others will help with additional decorating).

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

Changes to Agenda: No changes.

History Moment: Paula talked about the history of the GHS book sale and encouraged everyone to join in the monthly book culls. We also decided to change book culling to the last Friday of the month around 10:30am. One possible project would be to work on improved genre signage in Janet Long’s garage so that the books can be sorted and found more easily.

President's Report (BJ):

Summer Exhibit Progress: Kyle is working on the panels and is about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way through. BJ brought up the possibility of having the railroad exhibit up for 2 years, but this decision won't be made now. Janet Travers's railroad booklet came up in the conversation, and Leslie said that she can provide copies of it so that more are available.

Toad Bags: The toad bags are finished and available for purchase for \$15. They feature toad art done by Lakeview students and represent a nice collaboration between the GHS and the school. They will be sold at the Museum this summer as well.

History in the 252: Everyone was reminded of the History in the 252 resource available on the VHS website. There is an interactive map with short stories about each of the municipalities in Vermont.

Secretary's Report (Amelia):

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

Volunteer Hours: Volunteer hour estimates were collected for work done in the past month (May-June).

Treasurer's Report (Lise):

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

Treasurer Absence: Note that Lise will be gone for the next 2 weeks. Leslie can place Amazon and other orders in her absence. Paula will handle other Treasurer duties.

Follow-up from Previous Meetings

Summer 2024 Exhibit: There was various discussion related to our Rail to Trail Exhibit, which will open on June 30th:

- If anyone obtains materials to use in the exhibit, please complete a Temporary Custody Form, which is available on the folding table in the Museum.
- Amelia will make labels for physical items in the exhibit (for example, the milk jug, lanterns, etc.) as well as for other items (Kyle's panels, for example) once information for the labels is provided to her.
- The group liked the idea of having a railroad-themed front window display. For now, there will be our GHS flag, but Renée will look into the possibility of some sort of railroad or train flag.

- Renée made the interactive train-themed light up board for the exhibit and shared the draft with the group. Visitors will have to match the names of train car types to images of those train car types, and the light will illuminate when they find the correct match.
- Renée chose a train-themed children's book (*The Little Red Caboose*) for the outdoor storywalk. The plan was for the storywalk to go down the side of the GHS Museum building and then into the back field as was done in prior years. Leslie expressed concern about having people in the backyard, as they could see into the archives through the windows. Renée pointed out that if we don't let people into the field behind the museum for the storywalk, there will not be enough room on just the side of the building, and the storywalk wouldn't be worth it. The plan is to go ahead with what we did last year and use the field.
- BJ is still looking into finding real coal for inclusion in the exhibit. Renée suggested that we order some on Amazon.
- BJ has some models of goods that came in and out of Greensboro Bend on the train, but she is looking to have a complete set of small replicas. She asked the group to bring in any models of pigs, Christmas trees, milk (we have a big stainless steel milk jug from Massachusetts that the group decided was better for the display than a rusty local one), potatoes, pulp wood, groceries, mail (Leslie will look in the archives for old mail or penny postcards, for example), bricks, horseshoes, old hardware, old paper butter containers, and vintage luggage (we do have an old trunk that we will bring in, and Jenny has an idea for obtaining an old cat carrier).
- There was discussion about the exhibit panel related to the Davis Store, and Leslie shared many files related to the store from the archives (for example, old invoices, an accordion file, etc.). If we can gather enough related items, we might create a little display in the glass case. The models of the goods described above could also go in the case, if there is space.
- Mark Snyder is going to bring in a Fairbanks Scale that was used at the Depot when the trains were running.
- The docent training was moved to Tuesday, June 25th @ 10:30am--the later date will make it so that more of the exhibit is actually closer to being in place for the training day.
- The exhibit Opening Reception is Sunday, June 30th from 3:00 - 5:00pm. Paula will contact Martha Niemi about making punch, BJ will buy plates, napkins, and other accessories (plus cheese and crackers).

GHS Annual Meeting: Discussion on this was limited, as we're more focused on the exhibit opening right now. Nancy did mention that there will need to be more cookies, snacks, punch, etc. for the annual meeting. Amelia will send out a reminder closer to the meeting.

Committee Reports:

Building and Maintenance: Leslie is in contact with Gordon's Windows to install the UV shades--we are waiting for them to come. Work will be resumed (possibly in the fall) on the emergency disaster plan.

Archives: Leslie mentioned that the Craftsbury Historical Society will visit the GHS Museum and archives on June 14th at 10:00am. They are interested in developing their own collections and archiving and are coming for inspiration and information.

Newsletter: Jenny said that the newsletters will be ready for pick up on Thursday, 6/13, at Accura in Barre. Skip volunteered to pick them up. A group will meet on Friday, 6/14, at 11:00am at the GHS Museum following the Craftsbury Historical Society visit to get the newsletters prepared for the mail.

Website and Tech: Kyle was interviewing a former St.J.&L.C. employee and was not present at the meeting, but BJ said he will update the website with the current summer schedule and will also post the latest newsletter.

Hazen Road Dispatch: Nancy and Stefanie have been putting a lot of work into getting the *HRD* ready for publication and will be done by the end of the week. It should definitely be done in time for the museum Opening Reception on June 30th. Nancy updated the index of other publications for sale in the GHS bookstore for inclusion in this year's *HRD* edition. The group noted that the index of *HRD* articles needs to be updated. Nancy reminded us that the last time this was done, we paid a professional indexer (Pat Haslem). We will turn back to this topic later.

Hill Family timeline: Erika and BJ confirmed that they will work on updating the Greensboro section of the Hill Family timeline. Renée is continuing to digitize the information for all of the existing timeline sections from pictures she took of the paper timeline.

Annual Meeting and General Summer Publicity: Amelia said that she will be working on summer publicity flyers for the Ice Cream Social & Book Sale, Opening Reception, Annual Meeting, and Hazen Road Dispatch. There was also general group agreement that Amelia should design an updated "rack card" based on the one we had last year (with the summer event schedule, museum hours, etc.).

Other Business:

Museum Cleaning: BJ mentioned that the museum will be cleaned after this meeting.

250th Anniversary of VT: The group agreed to put off this discussion.

Nominating Committee: BJ asked if there were any volunteers to be on the nominating committee. Members of this committee would find and recruit people to fill various positions on the GHS Board of Trustees or various positions as Officers of the historical society.

Funky Fourth Parade: The group discussed plans for the Funky Fourth parade this year. Skip volunteered his truck to possibly carry the large railroad crossing sign that's in the museum, and we might be able to hang our GHS flags or something railroad-related on the sides of the truck. GHS representatives can ride in the back.

President BJ Gray adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia Circosta (Secretary)

NEXT MEETING: GHS Annual Meeting (Geology Rocks! w/ Bob Merrill); Aug. 5th, 7-9pm @ Fellowship Hall

Next regular monthly meeting: Sept. 10