



Greensboro Historical Society

Meeting Minutes (May 13, 2025)

10:30 am @ the GHS Museum

Attending: BJ Gray, Erika Karp, Renée Circosta, Debbie Kasper, Lise Armstrong, Paula Harmon, Amelia Circosta, Kyle Gray, Leslie Rowell, Jan Terwiesch, Willie Smith, Jenny Stoner, Becky Arnold, Judy Carpenter, and Nan Perron; Janet Long (Zoom).

To-Do in the Coming Months/Assigned Tasks

- ❖ *Everyone/anyone:* Send relevant photos to Jenny for potential inclusion in the newsletter; consider volunteering as a summer docent for our museum open hours.
- ❖ *Lise:* Coordinate with Jan to submit a request to the Selectboard for funds for exterior garage maintenance; order donation envelopes if necessary.
- ❖ *Leslie:* Wrap up Vermont Arts Council publicity for UV shades; write related article for newsletter..
- ❖ *Amelia:* Help Renée with the Hill Exhibit timeline; make flyer with summer hours and programming for posting outside the museum; post LLHSM newsletter on outside bulletin board.
- ❖ *Renée:* Continue digitizing the Hill Exhibit timeline; create pamphlet for summer exhibit; write newsletter blurb on next year's WWII Home Front exhibit; contact John Schweizer (Funky Fourth), Naomi Ranz-Schleifer (Greensboro Association), and the GFL re potential 250th celebrations; check the archives for Bicentennial records.
- ❖ *Nancy:* Keep in mind the goal to update the HRD index in connection with publishing the 50th edition.
- ❖ *Jan:* Continue work on garage renovation; assemble the paperwork needed to solicit bids; coordinate with Lise on submitting a request for funds to the Selectboard; upload GA grant application to Google Drive folder provided by Renée; write newsletter article on garage renovation project; generate estimate of garage exterior painting costs.
- ❖ *Kyle:* Send necessary files to Renée for summer exhibit pamphlet; update address list before upcoming newsletter mailing; send Summer Exhibit and Winter Meeting pictures to Jenny.

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

Changes to Agenda: The report on the Tom Hurst Memorial Bench from the Treasurer's Report was moved up to directly after the History Moment..

History Moment (Erika): Erika shared some interesting passages from a past *Hazen Road Dispatch* telling of the emotional remembrances of Greensboro from a summer person's perspective. This particular article by Sydney Cook was the only HRD article that Erika could find about WWII (in connection with our planned 2026 summer exhibit).

Tom Hurst Memorial Bench: Becky Arnold joined us with an update on the progress with the granite bench. The text on the bench will read "In memory of Tom Hurst - forever dedicated to the Greensboro

Community.” Becky thinks that the project will cost around \$4,000, including the sitework. Judy Carpenter has put up the down payment and will be reimbursed as donations come in. Becky will put the bench information and a call for donations on Front Porch Forum and Facebook, while Judy will make a flyer to post around town to engage those not online. Lise will track the donations, which the GHS is processing for the project.

The group discussed the best location for the bench, and Jan shared an image of the imagined bench situated on the Willey’s side of the GHS building. We went outside to look at the location and decided that it would be good to give the bench a slight tilt up the road, facing the McIntyre barn. The landscaping can be slightly modified to incorporate the bench.

BJ made a motion to accept the bench proposition and location in front of the GHS building and was met with unanimous agreement. The next step is to have the Selectboard approve the plan, but Becky does not think that this will be a problem.

President’s Report (BJ): BJ shared the French origins of “Vermont” (vert = green, mont = mountain).

Lise shared a picture of a large chest in an old house nearby that is currently owned by the Land Trust. The GHS can have the chest if we want it, and Jan thought that it could easily be incorporated into the garage renovation project as a storage unit. Jan and Kyle will discuss pick-up logistics.

Treasurer’s Report (Lise): The Treasurer’s Report was approved as submitted. Lise finished her Treasurer’s Report by noting that the GHS has not received very much money yet this year.

Secretary’s Report (Amelia): The April minutes (by Renée, in Amelia’s absence) were approved as submitted. Amelia gathered the volunteer hour estimates for the April - May period.

Follow-Up From Previous Meetings

Summer Exhibit Pamphlet: Renée needs the files from Kyle to move forward with this.

Updates to *Rails to Trails* Exhibit: Jane Johns passed on a copy of the contemporary magazine *Vermont’s Northland Journal*, which featured a cover story on a St.J&L.C. wreck between Greensboro and Hardwick. We can add the article to the exhibit for this summer.

Jane is also working on posting signs/plaques in interesting locations along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail--for example, noting the location of where significant railroad disasters occurred. We are not sure of the progress on this project but we look forward to hearing more from Jane next month.

“WWII: The Home Front in Greensboro” - 2026 Summer Exhibit ideas: Renée looked in the archives for Greensboro in WWII materials, and she said there is quite a bit of documentation and photos, but not many physical artifacts. She thought that the Hardwick or Craftsbury Historical Societies might have more materials and that it could make sense to collaborate with them. Wiz Dow in Hardwick offered some ideas, which are incorporated into our [brainstorm notes](#). The group agreed to add a short message in the newsletter to call for contributions to our 2026 exhibit. Confident in the amount of available information and possibilities, BJ made a motion to accept “WWII: The Home Front in Greensboro” as our 2026 summer exhibit topic. The motion was accepted unanimously.

250th Celebrations: Renée spoke with Wiz Dow from the Hardwick Historical Society about plans for the 250th, and they haven't developed any plans yet. Renée is going to get in touch with John Schweizer about the Funky Fourth, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer from the Greensboro Association, and the Greensboro Free Library to see if any of those groups are planning for the 250th.

Required publicity for Vermont Arts Council grant (Leslie): Leslie is wrapping this up. The label for the UV shades is done and will be hung up soon.

Updates to Hill Exhibit timeline (Renée): Renée reported that work stalled a bit this past month but she can turn back to it. She asked that if anyone has sources describing major events in Greensboro's recent history (last 25 years) to please pass them on. The group couldn't think of a definitive source, so it seems as though we will need to piece together events from various sources (e.g., *Hardwick Gazette* archives) and perhaps talk to residents about major events that they remember.

Summer Docent Schedule: Paula is looking for docents to volunteer 2 hours once per week for July and August. The museum will be open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 10 - 2. Amelia is going to make a sign to post outside the museum advertising our summer hours and programming.

LLHSM Conference: No one from the GHS attended this year.

Committee Reports

Building and Maintenance: Jan was pleased to announce that the Greensboro Association appreciated the GHS proposal related to the garage renovation and granted us \$2,000 for the project. He carved a "GA Grant Award" sign to post on the garage, which he shared with the group. Somebody will talk to Kim about possible funds from the Town for exterior maintenance on the garage, which would most likely cost about \$600 - \$700. Jan will do an estimate for exterior painting costs, and he will continue moving things forward with the project as a whole to keep the momentum going.

Archives (Leslie & Willie): Willie is diligently continuing with the newspaper clippings and has also been scanning many of Phyllis Hurst's scrapbooks. Much of these scrapbooks themselves are made up of newspaper clippings, some of which are related to Greensboro. Leslie and Willie have been working on processing these and various other scrapbooks to make them safe for the archives and accessible for researchers. Leslie has also made the *In memoriam* list for the newsletter and updated the Memorial Garden books.

BJ presented a Greensboro history timeline made by Lakeview students in 2005. It may go in the archives, or may end up elsewhere on display (it is 15 feet long).

Newsletter (Jenny): The deadline for receiving articles from those who volunteered to write them was the day of the meeting, and Jenny had not yet received the Summer Exhibit article from Kyle or the One Room Schoolhouse article from Jan. Renée volunteered to write a short blurb about the 2026 WWII: The Home Front in Greensboro exhibit with our general ideas and a request for community members to contribute ideas, artifacts, and other resources.

Jenny needs more photos, for example for the Summer Exhibit article, the Winter Meeting article, and the article anticipating Tim Breen's Great Maple Syrup Bubble presentation at the GHS Annual Meeting. Please do not hesitate to send Jenny any and all potential photos for inclusion in the newsletter.

Jenny would also like an updated address list and noted that we should order donation envelopes if we do not have those already. She aims to send out the newsletter in early June.

Website and Tech (Kyle): Nothing new to report.

Hazen Road Dispatch (Nancy): Neither Nancy nor Dan Penrice were in attendance, but BJ reported that everything is going well with the HRD. They are not yet sure if they will get Part 2 of the Jasper Hill history. Dan is planning to have the HRD ready for distribution on June 15. Dan will be welcomed in an article in the upcoming newsletter mailing.

Other Business

LLHSM Newsletter: BJ thought it would be a good idea to add the LLHSM newsletter to the bulletin board outside the museum for people to see.

President BJ Gray adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia Circosta (Secretary)

NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING: Tuesday, June 10 @ 10:30 am at the GHS Museum and on Zoom