



# THE GREENSBORO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## Officers of the Greensboro Association

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John C. Stone, III

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Barr Hill & Long Pond

Nature Preserve

Communications

Events

Finance

Grants & Endowment

Greensboro

Initiatives

- Lake Protection

- Water Quality

- Public Beach

- Aquatic

Nuisances

- Federation of

- Vermont Lakes
  - and Ponds

- Boating and

- Water Safety

Membership

Music (Sunday eve.)

Nominating

Swimming

Zoning By-laws

Non GA Liaison

Committees

Newsletter Editor:

Whitney Sowles

## WILLEY'S UPDATE

If you haven't heard of or seen the status updates on Facebook, we started the façade and other upgrades to the road facing sides of the building. Since it has been maybe 10 years or more since we painted the building last, and even longer since any work has been done on the building itself, I decided it was time. To make things easier the project was broken down into several different phases and to make sure certain things were done before everyone arrives for the summer. We also didn't know what we would find underneath; so breaking the project into phases gave the contractor's time to repair or replace the old, rotted, insufficient structural work or hazardous material we might find underneath. It was also important to insulate the areas that need it to increase energy efficiency and preserve the building. Construction will continue through the summer but should not impact access to the store.

Posters and flyers will be handled differently; hopefully more organized and protected so they last longer. No more paper littering the ground after a big storm and we will have a bit more say as to what goes up and what doesn't. My idea is to have a greeting and informational center that will serve the community better than just the plywood boards. We are still developing this and would like to present it to the select board before we put it in place. I want to gain a community and consensus input to make sure it serves the function it is intended to.

New signs are being developed to better identify the store and will be placed in areas facing the roads. They will be smaller than the main sign, indicating the different department within the store. It is my hope they will alleviate any question as

to "Is there a hardware store in town?", and help people trying to use the store as a landmark to get somewhere or meet someone.

The next larger and final phases of the project will begin at the end of August and will include the front door area and the gas pump area and will require some down time where we will be closed, for hopefully no longer than a day, as the electric service needs to be updated and moved and the electrical wiring on the inside needs to be upgraded.

I wish we could say that we will be done when the final phases are done but this is only the tip of the iceberg. I knew going into this project that a chain reaction of repairs and upgrades would start but they need to be done and thanks to the incredible support of the Greensboro and surrounding communities these upgrades are possible. To see the progress of the work and what we found underneath please check out our Facebook page. Thank you all and see you this summer!!!!

*Rob Hurst*



The Greensboro Association mission is to conceive, advance, and support village initiatives and organizations that enhance our community and to protect Caspian Lake and its surrounding environment for both full and part-time residents of Greensboro.

## 911 and Your Home or Cottage

Do you have a reflective sign with the correct 911 address for your cottage or home? The Greensboro Fire Department will be selling these signs this summer. They are critically important for helping rescue and fire services locate your home in an emergency.

Current dates for accepting sign applications are:  
Saturday, July 2 from 11 AM to 2 PM  
Thursday, August 18 from 7-9 PM

Additional dates may also be scheduled. Signs are \$15 each.

We can't emphasize enough how important these signs are for the safety of your property and your family and guests.

*Victoria Von Hessert*

## Act 46: Vermont's School Consolidation Law and Greensboro

In 2015, the Vermont legislature passed a number of important bills that impact the future of education in the state. Among them was Act 46, which calls for sweeping changes to school governance to achieve the broad goals of providing equity in quality and variety of educational programming, leading students to, at a minimum, achieve the State's Education Quality Standards, while at the same time maximizing efficiency and delivering these goals at a cost parents and taxpayers value. Implementation of mergers to achieve these goals comes with a series of graduated tax incentives, along with the threat of the possible loss of small school grants if a district fails to voluntarily merge or propose an alternate structure by July 1, 2019.

Greensboro is a member of the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU), which is also comprised of the towns of Hardwick, Craftsbury, Stannard, Woodbury, and Wolcott. The OSSU faces unique challenges because each town has a different school configuration. Some towns operate schools; other towns offer choice. Some towns are in a union with another town to operate a high school, while still others operate an entire PK-12 system. Because of these differences, it has been difficult for OSSU member towns to find a way forward and meet the requirements of the law.

Our town is in a union with Stannard to operate the Lakeview Union School, a K-6 elementary school on Lauredon Avenue, just past the town hall. The school uses additional space in the town hall for its 4-6 graders, art, music, and the provision of instructional support.

We are also in a union with Hardwick and send our 7-12 graders to Hazen Union. Unions cannot be dissolved without the approval of voters from all member towns in the union. So, for example, for Greensboro to leave Hazen Union, voters in Woodbury, Hardwick, and Greensboro would need to agree to our departure.

This winter, Greensboro voters and taxpayers indicated a preference for retaining our small elementary school and, if possible, pursuing the option of school choice for our 7-12 graders. At the OSSU Act 46 committee meeting this March, the group decided to begin researching an "Alternative Governance Structure", or the option available to those districts that do not voluntarily merge. The committee will begin formal work with a consultant in April on this issue.

With only one vote on the OSSU Act 46 committee (the vote is proportional based on number of pupils), Greensboro and Lakeview school board members will continue to work to ensure that our students' needs and the goals of our town will be met. The boards will host another opportunity for community members to learn more and participate this summer. No formal decision regarding Greensboro's participation in any merger will be made without the approval of the voters of the town of Greensboro.

*Victoria Von Hessert*

## GAAR UPDATE

At Greensboro's Town Meeting in March, voters conducted a non-binding straw poll regarding the GAAR tent on the Town Hall Green. Through a show of hands, those in attendance indicated strong support for the Select Board to allow GAAR to erect its tent on the Town Hall Green for the 2016 summer season. The new theater under construction at Tolman Corner is currently scheduled for completion in 2017.

*Linda Ely, GA Vice President*



## **The Town Plan**

The Greensboro Planning Commission has begun the process of developing a new Town Plan. This plan will update the current municipal plan adopted in 2012 and amended in 2015. Because municipal plans expire in five years, a new Town Plan needs to be approved and published by the end of 2020.

The primary goal of a Town Plan is to derive both the short-term and long-term community goals based on general stakeholder's consensus and to provide a basis for updating town zoning rules and capital budget programs.

The plan should:

- Identify significant trends and conditions that have or are shaping Greensboro's core character.
- Document current conditions and future preferences regarding population, housing, recreation, land use, natural resources, transportation, energy, economic development, education, utilities and community facilities and services.
- Define the goals, policies and related implementation strategies for addressing community wide preferences for each Town Plan topic keeping in mind current and future generations of the Greensboro community.

To begin the process of listening to stakeholder input, a community wide survey is being developed now to start the discussion. The survey should be ready for distribution in the next few weeks. The survey will be followed up by both general or topic specific forums, focus groups, living room meetings and social media discussions with Greensboro stakeholders.

The Greensboro Planning Commission consists of Phil Gray, Linda Romans, Dylan LaFlam, David Miltenberger, Lily McAteer, Christine Armstrong and Joe Wood. The Commission led planning process is being assisted by the Greensboro Zoning Administrator and a Northeastern Vermont Development Association consultant.

*Joe Wood*

## **A Productive Year for GA's Grants and Endowment Committee**

The Grants and Endowment Committee received and evaluated 20 grant application in 2015. Based upon our criteria of supporting local initiatives and service organizations, we selected 14 to receive grants. Total awarded grants from our general operating revenue were \$13,000, approximately the same as in 2014. We are now in the process of soliciting new applications for 2016. Our deadline for new applications is June 1.

The GA Endowment original proposed by Mary White in 2012 and then initiated three year ago by Clay Simpson continues to move forward. In 2015, we created our initial marketing and campaign piece that was mailed to GA members late last Fall. From that we generated \$5400 from 22 contributors. Two thirds of that amount went to the Community Fund and one third went to the Lake & Environment Protection Fund. Total Endowment is now approximately \$66,000. Our plans for 2016 are to expand our exposure to the community with updated marketing pieces and personal visits to interested potential contributors. We will also continue to work with our Advisory Committee to identify community capital projects in which to invest these resources.

*John Schweizer, Grants and Endowment Chair*

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## **Key Dates for your Calendar**

### **Independence Day Celebrations**

Parade: Saturday July 2nd

Fireworks: Saturday July 2nd

### **GA Annual Meeting**

Thursday August 4th, 5:00pm

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**Sail Days**

Join us on Saturday, July 23 and Saturday, August 13 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM for an informal group sailing afternoon. All classes of sailboat are welcome. Last year’s sail days were challenging because of low wind and poor conditions. Let’s hope this year brings back some classic memories of many colored sails out on the lake!

**Caspian Challenge Race and Walk**

This year’s Caspian Challenge is tentatively set for Sunday, July 24, pending approval from the Greensboro Select Board. Online registration is tentatively scheduled to begin June 1 and will remain open until Friday, July 22. We will continue to offer race day registration, but we strongly encourage interested participants to register online in advance. Fees will remain \$15 per entrant. This fee is waived for those under age 13. The minimum registration age for the 5-K and the lake run is 8. Kids under 10 are also welcome to participate in our free Fun Run. Look for information on the Greensboro Association’s website later this spring. As always, volunteers help make this event a success. Please contact: Victoria Von Hessert victoriavonhessert@gmail.com.

**Trustees of the Greensboro Association**

**Class of 2016:**

Andy Dales, Linda Ely, Betsy Hunt, Don Jenkins, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, Lorelei Wheeler, Allison Stegner

**Class of 2017:**

Rick Lovett, Sara Dillon, John Schweizer, Whitney Sowles, Mary Parker, Charlie McAteer, Devin Burgess

**Class of 2018:**

Emily Purdy, Day Patterson, Becky Arnold, Sara Slater, Clay Simpson, John Stone III, Victoria Von Hessert

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Membership in the Greensboro Association is open to all residents of voting age who either own real estate or who have resided in the Greensboro community for one season. Residence at an inn or the guest or as tenant of a house owner is sufficient to qualify. Grown children of members are especially welcome. Members absent from Greensboro may continue their membership.