

**Greensboro Association**  
Annual Meeting of the Membership  
Minutes – UNAPPROVED  
Thursday, August 3, 2017  
4:00 PM  
Greensboro United Church of Christ  
Sanctuary

**Board Members Present:** John Stone, Linda Ely, Rick Lovett, Becky Arnold, John Schweizer, Don Jenkins, Andy Dales, Betsy Hunt, Day Patterson, Victoria Von Hessert, Clay Simpson, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, Mary Parker, Havilah Stewart-Mann

- 1) **Welcome Remarks:** John Stone opened the meeting at 4:01 PM. John welcomed the membership to this year's annual meeting and made some adjustments to the agenda to accommodate timing needs. John read the names of members passed in 2016/2017.
- 2) Clive Gray moved to approve the minutes for the 2015 and 2016 Annual Meetings. Don Jenkins seconded. The Minutes for the 2015 & 2016 Annual Meetings were unanimously approved without changes.
- 3) John welcomed Select Board Chair Susan Wood to present the 2017 Greensboro Award Recipient, Janet Long. Susan Wood provided a brief history of Janet Long's life in Greensboro, as well as her contributions to the town and its organizations. Janet thanked the Select Board for her award.
- 4) **Committee Reports**
  - a. **President's Report:** John Stone emphasized that the Association is in great shape and read the updated mission of the GA. The GA's work continues thanks to dues and donations. The Board voted to increase dues this year from \$20 to \$25 to help more fully fund initiatives and make a bigger impact in the community. John Stone thanked Clay Simpson and Whitney Sowles for their service to the GA as they are stepping down from the Board. Andy Dales is turning over the role of chair of the Lake Protection Committee to Stew Arnold. John reminded the membership about the booklet "50 ways to protect the lake" as just one of the examples of how Andy's work has impacted the GA's lake protection efforts. John highlighted the efforts of Havilah and Mary, as well as Stew and Don on the Ad Hoc FFG Committee.
  - b. **Lake Protection** (Andy Dales, John Schweizer, and Stew Arnold): Caspian Lake has no milfoil. He deferred lake level discussion to John and Stew. Water quality could be better. Erosion from high water levels is causing issues and silt is showing up in the water column. Water quality is most reflected by turbidity and smokiness in the water. Lay monitoring is also checking phosphorous and algae in the water column. 2016 was good, and suspects that it will be OK this year. We are at about average for lakes in Vermont. Don asked how often clarity is measured: 1x per week through mid-September. Andy also discussed the greeter program, which is funded by a grant from the State (\$5500) and the town's annual appropriation, plus volunteer hours spent looking for invasive species. Andy estimates that volunteer hours add up to about \$20000 worth of labor. In 2016, greeters inspected 1003 boats and trailers and they are currently at about that level or more for this year. He anticipates that greeters will inspect about 1100 boats in 2017. He provided an update on legislation (Act 67) that addresses the transportation of aquatic invasive species. The update requires that lake access points have up-to-date designs for boat wash stations. Final rules have not been published and we will work to have a licensed water station when the time comes.
  - c. John Schweizer continued the report with an update on lake levels. John outlined the history of the problem. The dam is owned by Hardwick Electric Department (HED). The water level is

controlled by the Vermont ANR/DEC. Historically, the GA worked with HED to open the weir when the water is high rather than working with ANR. Three years ago, ANR told HED not to adjust the water level. ANR believes best way to protect flora and fauna is to allow natural flow from the lake without adjustments. On the agency's recommendation, John and Stew have taken lake level readings for the past year to establish an average level to provide baseline data for a deeper conversation with ANR. Sense is that last year's levels were OK, but in 2017 the lake has been averaging about 8 inches higher than 2016. They are scheduled for another meeting with ANR next week. They want to work with ANR to get the right level and have Caspian become one of the few lakes in Vermont that does not have the State set its lake level. The challenge is to find the median level that is acceptable to the community. Members in attendance asked questions about the process and the history.

- d. **Community Initiatives/Local Motion** (Naomi Ranz-Schleifer and Jason from Local Motion): Naomi touched on recent community initiatives including, creation of a Maker Space/Creative Incubator space in the NEK. The library has started small maker space programs currently supported by Hill Farmstead. WonderArts received a USDA grant to create a Creative Incubator Space in the NEK as well. Additionally, committee is working to enhance bicycle and pedestrian access in our community. In the spring of 2017, they partnered with Local Motion. Local Motion's Interim Executive Director Jason Van Dreish (sp?) updated the membership on their work with Greensboro and 4 other area towns, including Hardwick, Glover, Craftsbury, and Barton Village. The project's focus is on helping to identify low-cost and easily implementable ways to make village centers more comfortable and safer for walking, as well as how to accommodate car traffic and encouraging drivers to be attentive and move slowly. In Greensboro, they are working on a redesign of the intersection by the ballfield to make it safer. He believes they are also looking at the intersection in the center of the town. Bike safety improvements focus on identifying roads that are low traffic that might be good roads to promote for people to bike. He also touched on the concept of 5 towns coming together to create safe and enjoyable biking between the towns. Overall, project emphasis is on things that can be accomplished with local funding and local implementation. Attendees asked if the flashing speed signs are effective and Jason does think so. Physical changes (pinch points) to the street also help (planters with reflectors, bollards, etc.). He also answered questions about biker safety, possibilities/options and requirements for bike lanes.
- e. **Communications** – Victoria Von Hessert informed attendees that the Committee will introduce the opportunity to submit original content for inclusion on the GA website in the coming months. Committee members are drafting guidelines for submissions that will be reviewed by the Board.
- f. **Grants Committee** – John Schweizer reviewed the \$12000 grants commitment from the GA for 2017/18 local initiatives. John reviewed grant criteria, range of grant funding, and recipients of this year's round of grant funding.
- g. **FFG Committee** – Becky Arnold thanked membership for being a part of the GA. GA is stepping up to enhance current and future capacity to address core concerns of the lake, environment, and community needs. The work of the FFG is an opportunity to steward the gift that Greensboro is for us and what it can be for future generations. Lake fund now has \$85,000. Community Fund now has \$25,000. Income will support community initiatives. It's a solid start and a good system for providing meaningful support to Greensboro. To grow funds, the FFG is launching the 1781 Society for legacy planning and Becky encouraged people to consider both for their annual or legacy giving.
- h. **Treasurer/Audit Reports/Budget**: Rick Lovett informed the membership that the GA had another successful financial year. Annual report and auditor's statements are available for review. The generosity of GA members increases every year. Expenses average about 10% -

insurance and the newsletter. Budget for FY18 reflects a small increase in contributions, but he anticipates higher expenses due to directory printing. **Don Jenkins moved to accept and adopt all 3 reports (financial report for past year, budget, and auditors report), Linda Ely seconded. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.**

- i. **Nominating** – Don Jenkins presented the slate:
  - i. Class of 2018: Vince Cubage for one year
  - ii. Class of 2020: Rick Lovett, John Schweizer, Havilah Mann, Mary Parker, Devin Burgess, Karen Gowen, Mary White
  - iii. Officers: President – John C. Stone
    1. Vice Presidents: Andy Dales, John Schweizer, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer
    2. Secretary: Victoria Von Hessert (Assistant Secretary: Allison Stegner)
    3. Treasurer: Rick Lovett
    4. Assistant Treasurer: Andy Dales
    5. Auditor: Jennifer Lucas
  - iv. **Linda Ely moved to approve the slate. Becky Arnold seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- j. **Other Business:**
  - i. Lantern discussion tabled due to time constraints.
  - ii. Tom Woodward requested the return of the fishing report. He made the motion to appoint 1 person to look into the stocking of the lake and other fishing information and make a report to the GA for 2018. John Schweizer seconded. Motion carried.
- k. Meeting adjourned by consensus at 5:33 PM.