

Goshen Farm Preservation Society Annual
Meeting Minutes January 15, 2014

Called by:	Barbara Morgan	Type of Meeting:	Board of Directors Annual Meeting
Facilitator:	Barbara Morgan/Lou Biondi	Recorder:	Sharon Biondi
Date:	January 15, 2015	Time:	7:30 PM
Location:	Cox Room, CSC Clubhouse		
BOD Attending:	Barbara Morgan, Lou Biondi, Becky Benner, Roy Benner, Sharon Biondi, John Maggio, Rhonda Titus, Stu Bailey and Karen Bailey		
Chairman and members Attending:	Terry Brandon, Susan Brandon, Rose Mary Stocker, Joe Poist, Chris Biondi, Carolene Winter, Tony Aguilar, Laura Murray, Linda Beck, Michael Buchet, Mike Maggio, Bridget Avila, and Doug McClelland		

1. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 7:35 PM by President Barbara Morgan.
2. A motion was made by John and seconded by Stu to postpone review of November and December Minutes until the February meeting. The motion carried.
3. Barbara stated she would hold her remarks until the end of the meeting.
 - a) Committee Reports:
 - b) Finances (Rhonda)
 - i) Rhonda reviewed the 2013 Annual Financial Report.
 - ii) Rhonda reviewed the Proposed Budget for 2014 and briefly explained the process by which she arrived at the budget. There was one adjustment by the Board at the December, 2013 meeting and \$400.00 was added to Facilities and Equipment for physical security. Rhonda answered specific questions about the Proposed Budget and explained that this is the Operating Budget which only includes income from Membership and Garden. Karen also suggested removing MMSCFP which we no longer use and correct that to Network for Good. Rhonda will make a note of that for the new Treasurer. Lou moved that we accept the Proposed 2014 Operating Budget as presented. This was seconded by Stu. The motion carried and the Budget was adopted.
 - c) Building & Maintenance (Stu): Report as submitted
 - i) Stu referred to his report that lists the high points of a very busy and productive year.
 - ii) He particularly highlighted four points in establishing the process for the work that is being done on the Main House: working with the AA Co Planning and Zoning Cultural Resources Planner Jane Cox and her team, establishing the actual relationship with the state in order to use grant funds, organizing and utilizing talented people in the community, and organizing and tracking in a timely manner the business owners who have generously donated.

iii) There was a question about passing the EPA site inspection. A formal response from Russ Mosier of EPA will be coming to GFPS on the site inspection. Stu feels confident of a positive response.

d) Membership (Becky): Report as submitted

i) Barb stated that membership numbers were so great; Becky submitted an addendum to her report to update membership numbers. (Passed out to members.)

ii) Becky created a Bar Graph showing the membership growth since 2007 and distributed this to the members. She pointed out that the membership growth was slow until the Garden was created. This was due to the fact that GFPS membership was required for plot rental. Becky continues to send out follow-up renewal letters emphasizing the benefits of joining GFPS.

iii) Becky highlighted some initiatives from her report such as facilitating GFPS joining the Small Museum Association which will broaden our exposure beyond the Broadneck and AA County. The Board enthusiastically thanked Becky for her initiatives, all of the improvements she has made to the membership process and the dramatic upward growth of membership.

e) Grounds (Roy): Report as submitted

i) Roy highlighted our success at creating a number of partnerships.

(1) Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District (AADCD) provides technical assistance to local land owners. We were approved as a "Cooperator".

(2) The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a federal agency which gives technical assistance to land owners.

(3) The Midshipmen Action Group (MAG) from our local Naval Academy came out to the Farm and worked on two projects in late 2013.

(4) Bartlett Tree Service did a comprehensive survey of our forest area, gave us a detailed report and was impressed with the health and age of our trees.

(5) The Baltimore County Community Tool Bank provides non-profits and other groups with rental tools for a week at a nominal charge.

(6) Former Congressman Wayne Gilchrest who is involved with a wildlife management area in Kent County is assisting us with developing an educational agricultural program related to the Environmental Literacy Program.

Roy stated that these partnerships are beginning to "bear fruit". Roy was congratulated on these partnerships and all of the incredible progress he has made on the grounds.

f) Communications (John): Report as submitted

(1) John reviewed the website visitor numbers, blasts that went out this year and press that went out to other media. He hopes to grow this communication even more in 2014.

g) Events (Karen): Report as submitted

i) Karen reviewed this year's fundraising totals. She also reported that Betty Brandemarte, Debbie Toy and Barb Morgan stepped up to serve on this committee and were extremely helpful. She also encouraged members who have other fundraising ideas for 2014 to contact the Event Chair.

h) Oral History & Research (Scott): No annual report submitted

4. Special Projects

- a) Spring Raffle - No decision was made on what to raffle but it was suggested that the kayaks have been successful.
 - b) Spring Garden Kick-off – Date – Open house on the same day? The Garden Members are meeting tomorrow (Thursday) and they will discuss date and combining a Garden event with the Open House and report back to Lou. Mike Maggio reported that part of the Main House might be open for the event. There was some discussion of Jazz Perpetrators playing at this event.
 - c) AA County Board of Education Update- Barbara will add election results to the Board of Education update.
5. On-going Business
- a) Board of Directors Election
 - (1) Ballots were passed out and Lou explained the ballot. It was explained that three people resigned from the Board of Directors. All 11 Board Members were elected to 3 year terms in 2013. Therefore 3 new Directors elected to the Board will have 3 year terms. We are working toward our goal of having 1/3 of the Board elected each year. The three names on the ballot are standing for election to replace the three that have resigned. The By-laws state that all “Directors shall be elected for a three year term.”, and therefore do not serve for the unexpired portion of the term of directors who resign.
 - (2) Candidates Terry Brandon, Joe Poist, and Rose Mary Stocker were introduced and given time to discuss their reasons for running and their backgrounds.
 - (3) Lou asked if there were any nominations from the floor for write in candidates. Hearing none we moved on to the election.
 - (4) Sharon, assisted by Rhonda counted the 22 ballots.
 - (a) Results reported – 22 votes for Terry Brandon, 21 votes for Joe Poist, and 22 votes for Rose Mary Stocker
 - (b) The new Board members were welcomed!
6. New Business:
- a) From the floor
 - (1) Barbara reported that several persons using metal detectors were seen on the Goshen Farm property. They were questioned about their activity, their organization was identified, and an e-mail was sent by Barb to the organizations president stating that GFPS is not at this time authorizing metal detecting on the property. The response was respectful and assured GFPS that no further metal detecting would be done on GFPS property. (Copies of these e-mails are attached to these minutes.)
 - (2) Roy stated that the GFPS Business Plan needs to be updated.
 - (3) It was suggested that a permanent list of Officers & Directors and their period of service going back to GFPS’ inception be placed on our website. Roy made a motion to this effect. It was seconded by Michael Buchet. The motion carried. Barbara will put together this list. **(Action: 132 – 01 -14)**
 - b) Maryland Charity Campaign – deadline 2/21
 - (1) GFPS needs more information on this potential grant. Lou will investigate, get the particulars and report back to the Board for further action.

- c) Endangered Maryland – Becky stated that this is part of the MD Environmental Trust and she will do further research on this potential grant.
7. We did not review actions.
 8. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.
 9. The Board met for a closed session for election of officers and appointment of committee chairs.
 - a) Barbara Morgan nominated Lou Biondi for President, he accepted, and there were no other nominations from the floor. Lou was elected by acclamation.
 - b) Becky nominated Rose Mary Stocker for Vice President, she accepted, and there were no other nominations from the floor. Rose Mary was elected by acclamation.
 - c) Barbara nominated Joe Poist for Treasurer, he accepted, and there were no other nominations from the floor. Joe was elected by acclamation.
 - d) Becky nominated Sharon Biondi for Secretary, she accepted, and there were no other nominations from the floor. Sharon was elected by acclamation.
 - e) President Lou Biondi asked each chair if they would be willing to chair a committee. Each responded, “Yes”. The President appointed: **Communications** - John Maggio, **Grounds** – Roy Benner, **Events Coordination** – Barbara Morgan, **Membership** -Rebecca Benner, **Garden** – Terry Brandon (new), and **Building & Maintenance** – Stuart Bailey. **History & Research** – Scott was not in attendance and will be contacted by Lou.
 10. The closed session meeting was adjourned at 9:30.