

Goshen Farm Building & Maintenance Report

March 14, 2016

Monthly Summary: The primary activity was Lou Biondi arranged the new internet provider Broadstripe and it is active. Electrician walkthrough. Pressure washed cottage (partially).

Activity This Month:

1. Lou Biondi arranged the new internet provider Broadstripe and it is active! Password set up for wifi is next step.
2. New Electrical service project: Lou Biondi met the electrician dave@connect-electric.com at the site. Discussed with him about all aspects of GF electrical upgrade. The electrician said the service must be moved out of the stairway (to the meeting room). Access (keys etc.) for electrician to proceed is underway. Helpers for the electrician are needed.
 - a. Some aspects: new electrical service and underground from BGE pole. Meeting room and security system projects. Other extensions and circuits.
 - b. Chair plans to inventory the electrical parts, existing system, and the planned new service box location and wiring slack.
 - c. We need to determine if we are buying our materials through the electrician Dave or can we begin that now. Also can we install any components for Dave to speed things along?
3. Caretakers cottage: I pressure-washed 3 sides of the cottage in preparation for painting before the open house. Need to complete the prep work. The cottage will need a good coat of primer (5 gal) then a color topcoat (5 gal) and trim painting (2 gal). Need to pick colors. Mike B said he has a paint sprayer and is willing to help.
 - a. If weather etc. cooperates maybe we could also paint the servant's quarters, milk house.
4. Meeting Room project: No Activity this month
Steps forward:
 - a. Removing wood chips from around the exterior base of the building is needed as moisture was noted on inside of exterior walls – mainly in the meeting room.
 - b. Electrical system installation is the primary constraint (outlets and lighting)
 - c. Other components and materials must be estimated & obtained. Need plan for floor?
 - d. Recruit volunteers and set date for insulation, dry-walling, trim & paint.
5. Keys, etc.: A programmed key fob was given to Roy to give to Dave the electrician.
6. Roy mentioned in his last report a southwest security light that is turning off too quickly. I could investigate this with Roy. No activity this month
7. Administrative: None

Compiled by:

Dave McCormick (Goshen Farm Preservation Society Buildings & Maintenance Committee)

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Communications Committee Report

March 16, 2016

Color Fire

The support agreement with Color Fire will end in May. I attempted to clarify some issues and clarify the support we will receive until then and how we may be able to maintain the web site after their support ends. I asked the following questions and received the responses below:

1. Q. Between now and the end of Color Fire's support agreement, can we ask you to add events and news as they are completed?
R. Of course.
2. Q. Can we continue to get Color Fire support on cosmetic and content changes such as changing fonts and inserting new language on pages?
R. Yes.
3. Q. Have you set up the Category and Tag structure I had sent you earlier with requested postings? Again, I am not a web site designer or programmer, but it looks like adding new material and getting it in the right place would be facilitated by having that in place.
R. This was a project we had to delay due to updating the hosting structure and email. I have to go back and see where we left off but yes, this is still on our to-do list.
4. Q. Can you or someone on your staff walk me through posting new material on the web site sometime after the J&J event and before the Open House? I would think two sessions of an hour maximum should do it. The reason for the second session would be to answer questions and address problems I encounter.
R. Yes, that fine. I encourage anyone else that is going to support those efforts join us as well.
5. Q. As soon as I get a firm date, can we ask Color Fire to do the posters for the Wine Tasting, the Fall Open House, and the Harvest Dinner while your services are still available *gratis*. Right now I would see the same basic design used for the Wine Tasting and the Harvest Dinner with new dates and times added and maybe some minor language changes. If the Fall Open House evolves the way I envision, that poster may be more challenging.
R. Yes, we have no problem designing it and you just tell us how many you would like to pay to have printed.

Since Terry Brandon has offered to do postings for the Sharing Garden, I suggest that he and I coordinate the time to go to Color Fire and get the training. He has been provide a password to log onto WordPress.

Color Fire completed the set-up of the goshenfarm.org email. I believe using this system will make the Society appear more professional and will facilitate the transition between committee chairs when such transitions occur.

Java & Jazz

I was very disappointed that the Caper came out the day before J&J diminishing the value of the full page ad we received for free. Also, we did not receive a mention in the Broadneck column in the Capital because I forgot to remind Wendi Winters. Becky handled the other listings in the Capital and that was appreciated.

Open House

I will start the PR campaign for that tomorrow. The poster designed by Color Fire is printed and ready to put up. I had 25 printed at a cost of \$52.47.

Goshen Farm Sharing Garden Committee Report for March 2016

Submitted by Bob Nestruck, Garden Chairman to Lou Biondi, GFPS President and GFPS Board

Accomplished:

1. 59 of 62 garden plots are rented.
2. Began preparing garden for open house.
3. Broadneck Enclave program students planted radishes and peas and tended the overwintered crops.

Needs Accomplishing:

1. Short Term:
 - a. Encourage gardeners to attend their plots as soon as possible for Open House.
 - b. Sharing Garden fence needs to be scraped and painted.
 - c. Establish educational workshops for high tunnel usage.
 - d. Compost piles need attending.

2. Long Term:
 - a. Improve volunteerism in the Sharing Garden.

Accomplished:

1. Duplicated a set of Goshen Farm keys for Dave Sloskey (electrician), for electrical work in the Farm House.
2. Assisted Terry Brandon with the Wednesday Enclave Students from Broadneck on several occasions.
3. The Enclave Bus Driver tried to turn around on the Goshen Farm front yard and caused many tire ruts which had to be filled and tamped down to level the lawn area.
4. Meet with Broadneck High School's Michelle Weisgerber to brain-storm ideas and what classes could incorporate Goshen Farm into their lesson plans. Lou Biondi and Terry Brandon were the lead on this effort.
5. The Goshen Farm Apiary Committee, (Sandy Vandever, Jenni Biondi, and Erik Wallace) are revamping the beehive area with my help. I re-arranged the existing beehives into a more practical arrangement with the option to further increase the number of hives in a level and evenly spaced hive arrangement. The four present hives are now placed on four treated 6" X 6" treated timbers, which place the hives much lower to the ground to facilitate ease of working with the hives. The hives are being painted different pastel colors and several new hives will be added to the existing four hives.
6. The Apiary was extended northward about 8' and new fence posts and cross rails were installed. The pickets will be added shortly.
7. Dug four Paw Paw trees previously tagged and planted them in the Goshen Farm Orchard. Picked up four donated young pup (Paw Paws) from Phil Caroom and planted them along with the new ly dug trees to continue the Orchard northward. Paw Paws prefer damp areas, so they were planted along a small drainage way. This brings the total number of orchard trees to 36.
8. Brush hogged the area where the present GFPS Storage Container and an additional area will be placed.
9. A "Work Day on the Farm" had 34 volunteers participate in removing vines from the Farm House north fence, vines were removed from the old well area, and an area just east of the old barn foundation. Wood chips were removed from around the Farm House foundation and placed on the Sharing garden walkways. Additional wood chips were also added to the Sharing Garden walkways.
10. The Owl house previously located in the removed silver maple tree was relocated to another silver maple just east of the Farm House side door.
11. Installed two new engraved, wooden signs for "The Goshen Farm Apiary" and The Henson – Hall Slave Garden and at those two locations.
12. Cut down the first of many tree of heaven trees encroaching on the old brick lined water well.
13. Assisted terry Brandon on constructed a proper drainage way and wood chipped walkway beside the High Tunnel. Actually, Terry did most of the heavy digging, but the tractor and trailer was used to haul several loads of wood chips to this newly created area.
14. While delivering some treated wood to the Caretaker's Cottage, I managed to stick my truck in the mud, while unloading this wood, but \$150.00 got me out relatively easily.
15. Had another load of wood chips delivered for use around the farm?
16. Assisted with the Java and Jazz event in a small way.

Needs Accomplishing:

1. Figure out why the southwest corner motion security lights remains lit for only 3 to 5 seconds, when activated by motion but then goes out and correct this deficiency.
2. Meet with Bud Reeves, the County Forester, to develop a woodland Management Plan for Goshen Farm.

3. Draft a more comprehensive drawing of the floor timbers, supports, original flooring, new overlaid flooring, and bracing. This will be starting point for further structural guidance and where future excavations for evaluation of the floor and foundation should take place at the Farm House.
4. Help Terry Brandon install a series of valves on the High Tunnel's Drip Irrigation System. This will allow individual rows to be watered (as needed) separately, rather than watering all the plant rows at the same time.
5. Contact Congressmen Wayne Gilchrest, Sassafras Environmental Educational Center, located at Knocks Folly in Kennedyville, Maryland, regarding his educational lesson plans and experiences in Kent County.
6. Long Term:
 - a. Install a series of wood/conveyor belt diversion to remove runoff water at several locations down the driveway, rather than carrying all the runoff all the way down the driveway. This will reduce the velocity and volume of the runoff. Additionally, consider expanding our single lane driveway into a two-way drive or other option(s). This action would allow Goshen Farm to expand future activities at Goshen Farm, relieve traffic issues, and ensure driveway safety.
 - b. Develop a plan to attack to control rampant growth on trees (invasive vines that strangle our growing trees).
 - c. Continue descriptions of planned activities listed in the Grounds Master Use Plan and continue layout of the grounds.
 - d. Pursue new water well for Goshen Farm or try to tie into county water system near the Goshen Farm/Cape St. Claire Elementary School property line.
 - e. Pursue obtaining another 20-foot metal storage container to store equipment and renovation material for the Farm House.
 - f. Pursue composting toilets, holding tank(s) with pump outs, regular toilets connected to a septic system, or connecting to the county sewer system. Jim Morrison, of Hancock's Resolution pointed out that after their research into toilet facilities, Hancock's Resolution will be **using a large holding tank** for the bathroom effluent. He states this is a **MUCH cheaper** way to handle toilet facilities in today's world.

Needs Approval: N/A

New Business:

1. Security camera(s) should remain a high priority, so GFPS completes this on going project ASAP.

History Committee Report March 14, 2016

Continuing to assist Ann Brice Worthington with gathering information for her book. Have made trips to the State Archives and Keuthe Library for various documents. Planning on several more visits as the project progresses.

Spoke to Emily Parks at Java and Jazz about writing for the society. She is taking technical writing courses at school and would be willing to assist us. I will try to find a project that will benefit both her in her school work and the society.

No urgent needs at this time.

Scott Powers

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

March 16, 2016

Submitted by Becky Benner on March 14, 2016

MEMBER TOTALS for 2016

- Members who either joined or renewed since September 19, 2015, and whose memberships thus expire December 31, 2016.

Residents

Resident Individuals = 20

Resident Households = 54

Corporate = 10

Includes

- 1 new Individual member
- 1 renewal Individual member
- 1 new Household member
- 4 renewal Household members
- 0 new Corporate member
- 0 renewal Corporate member

Total = 84 resident members

Non-Residents

Non-resident Individuals = 18

Non-resident Households = 26

Corporate = 7

Includes

- 0 new Individual member
- 1 renewal Individual member
- 2 new Household members
- 0 renewal Household members
- 0 new Corporate member
- 0 renewal Corporate member

Total = 51 non-resident members

2016 Total = 135 overall memberships

ACCOMPLISHED

- Participated in the “Thank you, Galway Bay” dinner.
- Attended a presentation by Rod Cofield, Executive Director of the Historic London Town & Gardens. Received information regarding Colonial America and specifically the Chesapeake region’s preference of drinks. Will share this knowledge in the selection of fruit trees and cider/tea/wine selections and making.
- Assisted Acting Events Chair in posting information about the March 13th Java and Jazz event on numerous on-line calendars.
- Participated in the March 5th Goshen Farm Saturday Morning Clean-up. Worked with four Southern Middle School students who earned three hours of community service towards meeting Junior National Honor Society requirements.
- Assisted at the Goshen Farm’s Java and Jazz event held at the Cape St. Claire Club House.

TO DO ITEMS

- Review and complete edits for GFPS
 - Bi-fold brochure
 - Service Project Guidelines / Application / Consultation and Review documents
 - Customs and Courtesies Policy
- Resume oral history interviews

NOTE

- March 2015 = 145 overall memberships; March 2016 = 135 overall memberships
- February 2015 = 98 overall memberships; February 2016 = 124 overall memberships
- January 2015 = 91 overall memberships; January 2016 = 116 overall memberships

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time