

**Goshen Farm Preservation Society Annual Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2016**

<b>Called by:</b>	Louis Biondi	<b>Type of Meeting:</b>	Board of Directors Annual Meeting
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Louis Biondi	<b>Recorder:</b>	Sharon Biondi
<b>Date:</b>	January 20, 2016	<b>Time:</b>	7:30 PM
<b>Location:</b>	Cox Room, CSC Clubhouse		
<b>BOD Attending:</b>	Lou Biondi, Becky Benner, Roy Benner, Sharon Biondi, Barbara Morgan, Terry Brandon, Joe Poist, Rose Mary Stocker and Scott Powers		
<b>Chairman and members Attending:</b>	Jenni Biondi, Laura Murray, Michael Buchet, Larry Jennings, Linda Beck, Bob Nestruck and Dave McCormick		

1. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday January 20, 2016 at 7:30 PM by President Lou Biondi.
2. President Biondi welcomed all members and thanked them for making the effort to come given the inclement weather. He explained that this was not a Board of Directors Meeting but the Annual Membership Meeting to review the business conducted by GFPS, Inc. over the last year and to hold the Society's Annual Elections. He also stated that the Board appreciates participation of members in this meeting and we will entertain comments and answer general questions when the meeting is open to the floor.
3. President's Remarks
  - a) Lou reviewed GFPS's significant accomplishments this year. He also thanked Joe Poist for streamlining the Financial Reporting during his two years as treasurer which will help us move forward in managing our resources.
4. The Minutes from the Annual Meeting held January 21, 2015 were reviewed. There was a question from Roy regarding 4b1, regarding pending building permits for work on the farm house. Lou will contact Mike Maggio to determine the status of these permits. There were no other questions or corrections. Becky made a motion to approve the Minutes and Larry Jennings seconded this motion. The motion carried.
5. Committee Reports:
  - a) Treasurer's Report (Joe Poist): Report as submitted
    - i) Joe reviewed the 2015 Annual Financial Report and answered questions. Michael Buchet made a motion to approve the 2015 Annual Financial Report and Larry Jennings seconded the motion. The motion carried.
  - b) Building & Maintenance (Acting Chair – Dave McCormick): Report as submitted
    - i) Lou summarized activity over 2015. The most important thing was getting a consulting engineer, David Wallace out to inspect the Farm House. Dave gave an overview of what needs to be done to confirm structural issues before actual renovation work can be done. This meeting was summarized by Dave McCormick thoroughly in his December Building Report.

- c) Communications (Lou Biondi): Report as submitted
  - i) Lou reported that the work that Color Fire has been doing to update and streamline our website is nearly complete and should be ready for submissions next week. Lou said he did receive some feedback on the new website. He hopes to find a member who knows Word Press to keep the site maintained. Roy made a suggestion of someone who may be interested. Lou feels we will need a multiple person Communications Committee to handle – public relations for events and putting on articles written by others.
- d) Events (Barbara Morgan): report as submitted
  - i) Barbara reported that we have a schedule for 2016 events. The changing of the Java and Jazz to March and Spring Open House to April she believes will improve attendance for both events.
- e) Garden (Bob Nestruck, Acting Chairman): Report as submitted
  - i) Lou thanked Bob for stepping up as Acting Garden Chair.
  - ii) Bob reported that he feels the Garden is very stable. Gardeners cleaned up their plots at the end of the season and helped in many other ways to benefit the Garden. The plots are rented. The bee hives started by Lyle Wallace are benefitting the Garden and he has heard from a potential gardener, Sandy Vandevon who also has experience maintaining bee hives. Member, Jenni Biondi has also stepped up to take a three session course in bee keeping to assist with the hives' maintenance. Bob stated that Terry did well with the High Tunnel projects and helped feed a lot of the homeless and needy.
- f) Grounds (Roy Benner): report as submitted
  - i) Roy highlighted a few accomplishments for Grounds. Roy brought photos to highlight some of the year's accomplishments:
    - (1) First is the proposed Wildlife Pond. This was surveyed by the AACSCD and is a tenth of an acre in size.
    - (2) Second was the last MAG project in April clearing the areas for the orchard, memorial grove and the Henson-Hall Slave Garden.
    - (3) Next were the BB&T Bank Vice President, Gretchen Stoeker and approximately 14 staff working several nights clearing the garden to ready it for planting. They donated funds to put up a fence around the garden and donated two picnic tables near the garden.
    - (4) Fourth was the photo of the 14 students from Broadneck HS and Southern HS on September 29, 2015 planting 29 fruit trees in the Goshen Farm Orchard and 25 White Oak Trees in the Goshen Farm Memorial Grove. The trees were provided by the Stream Restoration Program, overseen by Hillary Caton of AACPS. The students who came to plant these trees were involved in this program.
    - (5) Roy showed a photo of our “new” 1948 Ford tractor. Rose Mary Stocker also donated the cost of the grader and brush hog attachments.
    - (6) Roy showed a photo of Victoria Garbesi, who took the role of Margaret Stinchcomb Tydings (who lived at Goshen Farm in the 1800's) at our Fall Open House. With Becky and Scott's help, Victoria researched the character, wrote and memorized a script, made a period costume and gave

- two presentations to guests as she guided them around Goshen Farm. It was a spectacular performance enjoyed by all. Victoria was an intern with GFPS for the Performing and Visual Arts Magnate Program, AACPS.
- (7) Roy showed a picture of a huge Silver Maple that was cut down this fall. This was the tree whose falling limbs caused nearly ten thousand dollars of damage to the Farm House during the 2014 summer storm. The tree had several rotten areas in its trunk. Roy determined that the tree was about 95 years old.
- (8) Last, Roy stated that with the help of Terry Brandon, GFPS has a new learning center on the enclosed front porch of the Farm House. The room was cleaned, wafer board was put up on the walls, lights were installed and temporary heating was installed. The room has already been used for students coming to Goshen Farm for educational programs.
- g) History & Research (Scott Powers): No report submitted
- i) Highlights of this year were helping Victoria Garbesi (PVA Intern) create her script for Margaret Stinchcomb Tydings, assisting Elizabeth (Risa) Slone with her historic articles about Goshen Farm for the monthly submissions to The Caper, and working with Chip Pettebone on the vast number of documents that Chip has on local history and which tie in to Scott's research on Goshen Farm and life on the Broadneck Peninsula. He will be meeting with Ann Brice Worthington (who was born and lived at Goshen Farm for a period) who is writing a book about her family. Scott is helping her with the research and believes he will gather more historic information on Goshen Farm in the process. Scott hopes that as a result of the Broadneck African American Heritage, Inc. Meeting on February 6, 2016, we may be able to get some help on the names and history of all of the slaves that resided at Goshen Farm.
- h) Membership (Becky Benner): Report as submitted
- i) Becky thanked Roy, Terry and Bob for being at the farm regularly and speaking to visitors about Goshen Farm. She credits these face-to-face meetings with an increase in memberships. Becky discussed the graph she provided in her packet showing membership growth. As of early January, we have 116 renewals and new memberships – the highest beginning of the new year membership we have had to date.
- i) Volunteer Coordination/Development (No report submitted)
- i) Terry stated that he stepped into the roles of Volunteer Coordination/Development Acting Chair(s) in September when Bob Nestruck agreed to become Acting Garden Chair.
- ii) Terry's primary event in these two areas was Superintendent, Dr. Arlotto's blessing for GFPS objectives of increasing GFPS involvement in educational programs at the Farm. Another highlight was the start of the Enclave Program involving special Education students from Broadneck HS. Looking forward, Terry will be attending the Anne Arundel County Library workshops on grant writing and he will be promoting and increasing educational opportunities at Goshen Farm with the hopes that the money will follow. Roy and Terry are working on a slide presentation for the Annapolis Rotary in early February.

6. Approval of the Society's 2016 Budget (Attached)
  - a) Treasurer, Joe Poist reviewed the 2016 Budget and answered questions. A motion was made to accept the Society's 2016 Budget by Michael Buchet and seconded by Becky Benner. The motion carried.
7. Board of Directors Election
  - a) President Biondi stated there are eight individuals running for the Board of Directors. There are two incumbents who will not stand for reelection until next year. The by-laws authorize a Board of up to 13 persons. In addition to the eight members nominated by the Board, the Chair will take nominations from the floor. There were none. The eight candidates for full terms to the Board are: Becky Benner, Roy Benner, Lou Biondi, Sharon Biondi, Bob Nestruck, Dave McCormick, Scott Powers, and Linda Beck. As there were no additional nominees, Lou asked for a motion stating that he would like to accept the slate and elect by Acclamation. Larry Jennings moved that we elect the slate of nominees by Acclamation. Michael Buchet seconded the motion. The motion carried.
8. Old Business
  - a) None from the floor
9. New Business
  - a) None from the floor
10. Comments from the floor
  - a) Larry Jennings discussed potential additions to the April 25<sup>th</sup> Open House. Larry has been working with the CSCIA on their shoreline protection plan. He wants to discuss ways this could be done. One of Larry's ideas is the shoreline floats/ beach protection/ living shoreline projects that slow down wave action and erosion. His organization, the Maryland Shellfish Growers Association has the Shoreline Trust bringing corporate partners and grants to these projects. He recommends an educational program on this for the CSCIA and could also include this program for the GFPS Open House. Lou suggested that the Magothy River Association could work with The Maryland Shellfish Growers Association and create such an educational presentation at the GFPS Open House. Larry will keep GFPS informed on this possibility.
  - b) Larry asked if there were any plans for wetlands planting on the wildlife pond. Roy stated that he has no plans at this time.
  - c) Michael Buchet asked how the camera at the Caretaker Cottage was working. Lou responded.
11. Becky made a motion to adjourn and Michael Buchet seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.
12. Lou announced that there will be a closed session of the Board of Directors to elect the Society's Officers and appoint Chairs after refreshments.