

**Goshen Farm Preservation Society Annual Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2019**

Called by:	Louis Biondi	Type of Meeting:	Board of Directors Annual Meeting
Facilitator:	Louis Biondi	Recorder:	Sharon Biondi
Date:	January 16, 2019	Time:	7:45 PM
Location:	Cox Room, CSC Clubhouse		
BOD Attending:	Lou Biondi, Becky Benner, Roy Benner, Sharon Biondi, Linda Beck, Michael Buchet, and Bob Nestruck		
Chairman and members Attending:	Laura Murray, Joe Lamp, Larry Jennings, Jenni Biondi and Jillian Amodio		

1. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 7:45 PM by President Lou Biondi. President Biondi welcomed all members and thanked them for making the effort to come as we appreciate membership participation at the GFPS Annual Membership Meeting. 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, to approve the Society's budget 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.
2. Certification of a Quorum
 - a) President Biondi certified that we have a quorum at this meeting. As of this meeting date according to the Membership Chair, we have 110 members and we need 10% attendance which is 11 attendees. We have 12 members present and thus meet our quorum requirement.
3. President's Remarks
 - a) President Biondi stated that he would add his remarks as we moved through the agenda
4. Review and Approval of Minutes
 - a) President Biondi directed the members to the meeting package provided and asked them to review the Annual Membership Meeting Minutes from January 24, 2018.
 - b) Lou accepted a motion to accept the January 24, 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes from Michael Buchet and seconded by Joe Lamp. There were two corrections from Becky. The motion to approve the Minutes with two corrections carried.
5. Review and Approval of end of the year Treasurer's Report
 - a) President Lou Biondi guided everyone to the Treasurer's Report in the package. This year, 2018, has been spent in updating and revising our accounting system. A simple Balance Sheet for 2018 is less than ideal but it does explain what we took in and what we spent in very broad terms. Working with our Treasurer and her assistant, Michael Buchet, using our new accounting system, QuickBooks for Non-profits, in 2019 we will be able to generate an end of the year detailed Financial Report. Lou asked if there were questions; otherwise he would

entertain a motion to approve the Financial Report. Becky Benner had a question regarding liabilities and Michael answered the question. Michael Buchet made a motion to accept the Financial Report for 2018 and it was seconded by Bob Nestruck. The motion carried.

6. Review and Approval of the Society's 2019 Budget
 - a) Lou indicated that the approval of the Society's 2019 Profit and Loss Budget was next on the agenda. Michael Buchet made a motion to accept the Proposed FY 2019 Profit and Loss Budget and Becky Benner seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Michael Buchet explained the new Chart of Accounts under our new QuickBooks for Non-profits system (we are still in transition). The motion carried.
7. Vice President's Report (Michael Buchet)
 - a) Michael first gave an overview of the Society's transition to QuickBooks for Non-Profits during 2018. It has taken much longer than anticipated. He believes that we will be able to plug the data into the new system after we get our copy back with the old data from the Society's accountant, Chris Battista of Annapolis Accounting Services. Then the long process of entering the data into the new system begins.
 - b) Michael then discussed his work as Chair for the Ad Hoc Committee formed for the purpose of revising the By-laws' Guidelines for all Goshen Farm Committees Addendum. He referred members to his report. He explained that on the list of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees, he highlighted those committee guidelines that have gone through at least one revision under this committee review. All others Committee Guidelines marked as "Draft 1" have been edited by the Ad Hoc Committee. Michael reported that he believes we will have a complete set of revised By-laws Committee Guidelines Addendum by the next Annual GFPS Meeting in 2020.
 - c) Michael also reported that he is revising the Action Items format that is part of our monthly GFPS Meeting Minutes.
 - d) Michael reported that GFPS sequestered money for certain Board approved projects. This "set aside" of monies was approved by the Board and Treasurer; Linda Beck moved money into sequestered accounts in QuickBooks. Last year, approximately \$3,300.00 was spent on a lightning protection system for the Farm House.
 - e) Michael reported that in 2018 we had an \$800.00 grant from the Four Rivers Garden Club to build a Pollinator Garden and Monarch Waystation and Pollinator Garden. We spent that money in an approved fashion and took that money out of the sequestered monies. Grounds Chair Roy Benner paid for the work upfront and was reimbursed. Roy then spent additional monies (\$540.41) to finish the project (needed aspects not covered in the grant; such as a protective fence). Roy donated the additional funds he needed to complete the project. So this grant could be considered a matching grant situation as GFPS cannot assume that Members in the future would donate costs above what is covered in a grant. This is an aspect of grants for which we need to be fiscally mindful when considering future grants.

- f) Michael is working on a project on all of the deeds, descriptions and the plats of the land we call Goshen Farm. It has been difficult. The boundary descriptions are in archaic terms. Member, Joe Lamp who was a close friend with the Radoff family while they were involved with the sale of their property to the AACPS spoke to some of Michael's issues. Michael will continue his research on property boundaries. Roy mentioned to Michael that Don Paxton, who lives on the property next to Goshen Farm's driveway, has a title company. He may be able to assist with Michael's search. Michael is also working with the Land Search Office of Anne Arundel County.
 - g) We installed Wi-Fi at the Farm. We lumbered a tree that fell down along the driveway and Richard's Tree Care, did all of the "heavy lifting" of this work, took the bulk of the tree to a mill (Richard's Tree Care donated \$219.00 from the Mill)..
 - h) Last, Michael is revising the solicitation letters for the Wine Tasting/ Silent Auction.
8. Committee Reports for 2018
- a) Building & Maintenance (Chair – Vacant)
 - b) Communications (Chair–Vacant)
 - c) Development/Volunteer Coordination (Chair - Vacant)
 - d) Events (Chair – vacant)
 - e) Garden (Chair – Bob Nestruck)(Annual report submitted)
 - i) Bob Nestruck reported that 2018 was a challenging year for the Sharing Garden with the torrential rains to the brutal heat. In spite of this extreme weather, the Sharing Garden did fairly well; the gardeners grew enough tomatoes with Terry Brandon's help in the Hoop House to make 18 gallons of sauce for the Harvest Pasta Dinner in October.
 - ii) The Garden was also having problems with insect pests. Bob bought Nematodes (microscopic worms that eat pesky insects) and he sprayed them on every plot. This worked well until more heavy rains occurred. This was an eco-friendly and inexpensive solution and will be used again in the future.
 - iii) Bob also reported on the Sharing Garden project of painting the fence. Gardeners shared the painting work and this worked well. Unfortunately, parts of the fence need replacing. Bob hopes to get donations for the fence by sections (67). He is investigating types and cost of fencing.
 - iv) Bob reported that Becky Benner set up a "demo plot" in the Sharing Garden near the entrance with vertical gardens and container plants to give gardeners different ideas.
 - v) The Henson-Hall Slave Garden was a 2018 success! Member, Tracy Smith volunteered to plan the layout, planting and maintenance of the Slave Garden. Tracy included such period plantings as fish peppers, tobacco, cotton and sorghum. Visitors were able to see the kinds of crops that would have been grown and worked by slaves.
 - f) Grounds (Chair – Roy Benner)(Annual report submitted)
 - i) Roy discussed the grant we received from the Four Rivers Garden Club for \$800.00 for the Pollinator Garden and Monarch Waystation. He enlisted the

- help of member, Larry Jennings who is knowledgeable about plants and together, they bought and planted about 350 native plants.
- ii) Roy also consulted the Extension Service about our orchard trees. The apple trees are growing straight up and Roy is pruning these and putting stretchers to encourage horizontal growth for the production of fruit.
 - iii) Jane Ward, an archeologist, helped member volunteers to dig 30 test hole pits in preparation for developing the Shallow Wildlife Pond and piping water from the Farm House roof to the pond. GFPS, through Roy applied to the Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District and they gave us “cost sharing” for the pond. Unfortunately, the bids Roy has received from various contractors are significantly higher than the approximate \$3,000.00 matching grant (total: \$6,000.00 with GFPS’ match). Thus far, he has received bids of \$18,000.00 and \$13,000.00. He has two more contractor bids coming in but he is not optimistic about their figures. He is looking at alternative ways to complete the excavating of the pond and trenching for roof water conveyance.
 - iv) Roy enthusiastically discussed the completed, in progress and upcoming Boy Scout and Girl Scout Projects at the Farm. Aiden Giroux just completed his Eagle Scout project. Aiden built and installed 10 Blue Bird houses on Goshen Farm grounds with animal protection composed of five gallon buckets. Scout, Connor Shaw is working on the ironstone quarry for his Eagle Scout project; clearing the quarry to expose the rock face, putting a wooden fence and walkway at the quarry entrance and placing a picnic table at that location. Girl Scout, Brook Lesikar is working on her Gold Star project; updating the 11 Point Walking Trail with features that have been added since the original Walking Trail was created by Girl Scout, Corinne Bailey for her Gold Star project in 2011.
 - v) Roy stated that Grounds Committee has put in some new signs for the Colonial Kitchen Garden, the Henson-Hall Slave Garden and the Pollinator Garden and Monarch Waystation. The Board agreed that the signs are lovely!
 - vi) A nine foot by ten foot green house was donated and added as an extension to the Hoop House.
 - vii) A new bell was donated to the Farm and was installed on a post by Roy.
 - viii) Activities that are underway are an aerial video of the Farm being created by Andrew Hill, a Broadneck HS student, and continued work on the installation of diversions and adapting them to the steepness of the driveway to prevent erosion.
 - ix) Lou thanked Roy for all of his hard work on Goshen Farm – grounds and more!
 - g) History (Chair – Scott Powers) (No report submitted)
 - h) Membership (Chair – Becky Benner)(Annual report submitted)
 - i) Becky reported on activities related to growing membership and programs related to membership enhancement that Becky has been working on in 2018.
 - ii) Working with the PVA and Stem Programs through AACPS has been an “eye opening” experience. While interns sign up for these programs, Becky has found some difficulty interfacing with those AACPS employees who monitor

these interns and their progress. Some students do not complete their project and yet the students get credit for their internship.

- iii) In 2018, Becky created a new tri-fold brochure for Goshen Farm Preservation Society and with Lou Biondi's assistance, printed the attractive brochure in time to include in each Membership Renewal Packet that went out in December, 2018. The GFPS 2019 schedule of events was included in the brochure as well as Goshen Farm's history, our purpose and mission, what we hope to accomplish in the future and a membership application form. She managed to include an amazing amount of information in this small brochure. Becky created a resource that will benefit Board members who wish to spread the word about Goshen Farm. Becky will also carry copies of this brochure to the networking meetings she attends and we will have them to pass out during events.
 - iv) Becky assisted all of the other committees and with GFPS events, helping with preparation, set-up and clean-up at events. She also did much of the advertising prior to our events using her resources such as on-line calendars, e-newsletters and printed sources.
 - v) GFPS Membership was increased from 2017.
- i) Bee Keeper, Jenni Biondi updated members on the state of the GFPS Apiary. (The Apiary is under the Grounds Committee.)
 - i) The Apiary now has 7 bee hives. Jenni and the other bee keepers hope that the hives survive the winter and thrive in the spring.
 - ii) Both Jenni and Erik Wallace harvested honey in 2018. Erik sold the honey by the jar at two of the Summer Concerts. This was well received. Jenni would like to better schedule honey harvesting so that the membership would know in advance when the honey would be available. She would especially like to know that honey would be available at the Fall Open House and/or the Harvest Pasta Dinner. Jenni will talk more with Erik about this planning. Jenni informed us that in addition to herself and Erik Wallace, Warren Klug and Adrian March have joined the bee keeping team. Jenni will remind Adrian that she must become a GFPS member.
9. Election of Members of the Board of Directors.
- a) Lou explained that the By-Laws authorize a Board of up to 13 persons. There are four vacancies on the Board of Directors. There are seven incumbents who will stand for reelection. All seven incumbents are offered as nominees by the Board and their names and Terms of Office appear on the ballot. At this time in the meeting, Lou Biondi announced that he was not running for the Board and will remove his name from the nominations. He will stay involved but not as a Board Member. Member, Joe Lamp rose to speak about the hard work involved with being a volunteer in an organization marketing a social cause and GFPS certainly falls into this category. He thanked Lou for everything he has done for Goshen Farm for more than six years and all of the hard work he and the entire Board has put into this organization over many years. Lou stated that personally, this has been the hardest working group of volunteers he has ever worked with in a volunteer capacity. Lou stated that in addition to the six members nominated by the Board of Directors, the Chair will take nominations

from the floor. There were none. Lou asked for a motion to elect Linda Beck, Becky Benner, Roy Benner, Sharon Biondi, Bob Nestruck and Scott Powers by Acclamation. Michael Buchet made the motion that we accept the slate of nominees by Acclamation and Roy seconded. The motion carried.

10. Old Business

- a) None

11. New Business

- a) None from the floor

12. Comments from the floor

- a) Member, Larry Jennings, asked if we would like to have oysters at the Spring Open House. Lou stated that Larry Jennings's request will have to be determined at a later time. Larry said he would need a week's notice regarding serving oysters at the Spring Open House. On a different subject, Larry informed the members that the CSC Garden Club was donating money for plants to finish the Pollinator Garden.
- b) Roy suggested that we include Pat Furgurson and his wife, Becky in the "thank you" dinner at Galway Bay Restaurant for Kara Maddox and her husband Brian. The dinner is to show the Society's appreciation for preparing the food and cleaning up after the Harvest Pasta Dinner in October, 2018. Pat Furgurson solicited and received donations of food and more from Galway Bay Restaurant.

13. Lou stated that we will go into Closed Session to elect GFPS Officers. Members are welcome to enjoy refreshments while the Board is in Closed Session. Closed Session began at 8:55 PM.

14. Meeting Reconvened at 9:15 PM with more discussion from the Floor.

- i) Lou stated that he and Sharon are willing to chair the Java and Jazz, Tea and Tunes and the Wine Tasting/Silent Auction. Barbara Morgan has stated that she is willing to chair the Kayak Raffle fundraiser.
- ii) Lou suggested that the Treasurer create a "bare bones" budget. This will include all of those expenses that must be included (electric, insurance, equipment maintenance, etc.). Michael will assist Linda with this.
- iii) Lou next suggested that the Board work on a fact based campaign to get members (and non-members) active and involved.

15. Adjournment

- a) Bob Nestruck moved to adjourn and Becky Benner seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM.