

**Goshen Farm Preservation Society Annual Membership Meeting Minutes  
January 15, 2020**

<b>Called by:</b>	Michael Buchet	<b>Type of Meeting:</b>	Board of Directors Annual Membership Meeting
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Michael Buchet	<b>Recorder:</b>	Sharon Biondi
<b>Date:</b>	January 15, 2020	<b>Time:</b>	7:45 PM
<b>Location:</b>	Cox Room, CSC Clubhouse		
<b>BOD Attending:</b>	Rebecca Benner, Roy Benner, Sharon Biondi, Linda Beck, Michael Buchet, Erik Wallace, Rose Mary Stocker and Bob Nestruck		
<b>Chairman and members Attending:</b>	Dan Perry, Veronica Stewart, Russell Stewart, Catherine Salam, Chris Biondi, Mary Ellen McCrea, Jim McCrea, Christy Folderauer, Barbara Morgan, Terry Brandon, Laura Murray, Jenni Biondi, Stephen Stocker, Doug McClelland, and Louis Biondi		

1. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 7:45 PM by Vice President, Michael Buchet. Vice President Michael Buchet 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 GFPS budget, to approve a By-law change and to hold the GFPS annual elections. Michael Buchet told the Members attending that later in the Meeting, we will go into Closed Session to elect the Officers and the President will make Committee Chair assignments. While we are in Closed Session, we hope the Members will take advantage of the refreshments. After the Closed Session, we will reconvene and announce the new Officers and Chairs. 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 opened to the floor.
2. Certification of a Quorum
  - a) Vice President Buchet certified that we have a quorum at this meeting. As of this meeting date according to the Membership Chair, we have 105 members, and we need 10% attendance which is 11 attendees. We have 22 members present and thus meet our quorum requirement.
3. Vice President's Report - Michael Buchet (Report submitted)
  - a) Vice President Buchet referred the Members to his report for 2019 and selected certain highlights to read. He stated that the Members could read the entire report to themselves. Michael referred to those Members that he wished to thank for their hard work throughout 2019. Michael stated that he would go over the new QuickBooks conversion that GFPS was going through from 2019 to the present. It is continuing. He thanked Treasurer, Linda Beck, Christy Folderauer and Sharon Smith, a QuickBooks professional for all their work on this.

- b) Michael Buchet next referred the Members to the GFPS Audit Report by Fred Miller, Accounting Services, Inc. He gave a brief overview of the audit.
  - c) GFPS negotiated with Dirk Schwenk, Baylaw, LLC and we now have an attorney committed to providing legal advice. He is working with GFPS in extending our Lease with the BoE. There was a question from Douglas McClelland regarding lease renewal. Michael responded to clarify.
  - d) GFPS is in negotiations with several insurance companies to achieve policies that will better reflect the growth in GFPS activity and attendance since we first negotiated our insurance policies. Michael reviewed examples of the increase in activity and attendance that require insurance reevaluation.
  - e) Michael thanked and introduced the Board Members.
  - f) Michael spoke about the Committee Chair Guidelines which are in the process of being updated.
  - g) Last Michael stated that GFPS is drafting a donation acceptance policy with appropriate letters.
4. Review and Approval of Minutes
- a) Vice President Buchet directed the members to the meeting package provided and asked them to review the Annual Membership Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2019.
  - b) Michael accepted a motion to accept the January 16, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes from Louis Biondi and seconded by Chris Biondi. There were several corrections from Becky Benner and Roy Benner. The revised motion to approve the Minutes with corrections by Louis Biondi and seconded by Chris Biondi carried with one abstention.
5. Review and Approval of end of the year Treasurer's Report
- a) Michael Buchet guided everyone to the Treasurer's Report in the package. Michael noted that under our old QuickBooks Accounting System, we could not accurately reflect "In-kind Donations". They have now been included in the new accounting system. Doug McClelland had a question about "In-kind Donations" that was clarified by Michael. This year, 2019, has been spent in updating and revising our accounting system. A simple Profit and Loss Summary for 2019 is less than ideal but it does explain what we took in and what we spent in broad terms. Working with our current Treasurer, our new Treasurer and her assistant, Michael Buchet, using our new accounting system, QuickBooks for Non-profits, in 2020 will be able to generate an end of the year detailed Financial Report and Budget. Michael also explained that in 2018, the Board made a motion to set aside 25% of the net profit to a restricted account for renovating and repairing the Farm House. We have hired a structural engineer, Dave Wallace and have begun gathering the necessary information to create a plan for the Farm House foundation repair. Michael asked if there were questions; otherwise, he would entertain a motion to approve the Financial Report. Bob Nestruck made a motion to accept the Financial Report for 2019 and it was seconded by Doug McClelland. The motion carried.
6. Committee Reports for 2019
- a) Building & Maintenance (Chair – Vacant)

- i) Michael reported that we are working with engineer, Dave Wallace and architectural designer, Amy Taylor. Amy Taylor has produced preliminary scale drawings of all the Farm House; all floors and elevations. We are now scheduled to meet with Dave Wallace and Amy Taylor at the Farm House on Wednesday, January 22 at 10 AM. Lou, Roy, and Michael will attend to discuss changes to the preliminary drawings and next steps for stabilizing the foundation. Michael did mention that we really need a Building Chair to move forward with these steps.
- ii) Lou also reported that an improvement that needs to be scheduled is building and installing shutters on all the windows. This work was approved by County Preservationist, Jane Cox of Department of Planning and Zoning, Cultural Resources Division with a change in the size and style of the hinges to be more period appropriate and smaller. Roy Benner has saved hinges from the various shutters that were on the Farm House when Goshen Farm had to remove the shutters to protect them. Lou stated that this project would be relatively inexpensive and could be done by Members. Becky explained to the Membership who Jane Cox is and how much she has helped GFPS and advocated for Goshen Farm over many years.
- b) Communications (Chair–Vacant) Lou Biondi passed out a one-page, two-sided report for Communications Committee, Financial Development Committee and Events Committee. Lou covered these three committees during 2019.
  - i) The Communications Committee supported the events hosted by Goshen Farm by arranging for Mailchimp Campaigns and Facebook posts. The Goshen Farm website did not get sufficient volunteer support to keep it current and there is a significant amount of outdated information on the website. Fortunately, Color Fire Marketing, a Goshen Farm Corporate Sponsor, has agreed to provide assistance in updating the website.
  - ii) Articles and event flyers were written and designed and published in the ten issues of the Caper during 2019.
  - iii) Becky Benner posted our events in on-line calendars, in various local community publications, e-newsletters and The Capital newspaper. She also notified the CSCIA of events to be posted on the CSC Sign Board.
- c) Financial Development (Chair - Vacant)
  - i) At the end of October 2019, the Committee submitted a “Special Spring FY 2020 Mini Grant Application” offered by the Anne Arundel County Arts Council in partnership with the Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning, Cultural Resources Division. The amount of the grant application was \$2,160.00 to purchase art supplies and to conduct art activities at the Goshen Farm 2020 Spring Open House. We are awaiting the results of this grant application.
  - ii) Also, in October, the Committee started tracking application dates for grants from State and local funding organizations to better plan for the future submission of grant applications.
- d) Events (Chair – vacant)

- i) Lou reported that Java & Jazz/Tea & Tunes (March 10, 2019) chaired by Lou and Sharon Biondi had six Event Sponsors who donated \$580.00 in cash and food. This free “thank you” event raised approximately \$1,400.00.
  - ii) The Goshen Farm Spring Open House (April 13, 2019) chaired by Board Member Rose Mary Stocker raised approximately \$600.00.
  - iii) He reported that the GFPS Strawberry Festival booth (June 4, 2019), chaired by Member, Barbara Morgan, sold 262 Kayak Raffle Tickets at the festival and the event netted \$1,400.
  - iv) The Goshen Farm Fall Open House (September 14, 2019), co-chaired by Rose Mary Stocker and Becky Benner raised approximately \$1,100.00.
  - v) The Annual Wine Tasting/Silent Auction (August 17, 2019) held at the home of Valerie Sullivan with wine and catering donated by Bellas Liquors netted \$4,201.00. This event was chaired by Louis and Sharon Biondi.
  - vi) The Annual Harvest Pasta Dinner (October 15, 2019) at Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church was chaired by Robert Nestruck and had one Event Sponsor who donated bread, pasta, salad and dressing. This event raised approximately \$1,350.00.
- e) Garden (Chair – Bob Nestruck) (Annual report submitted)
- i) Bob Nestruck reported that 2019 was a good year for the Sharing Garden even with the torrential rains and later the brutal heat. There was also an issue of a hornet’s nest near one of the plots that caused some stinging episodes to Gardeners. The nest was removed and hopefully will not reappear this spring. The Sharing Garden still needs to replace the rest of the fence and get it painted. Hopefully, the weather this year will cooperate with painting. Despite this extreme weather, the Sharing Garden crops did fairly well and the gardeners grew enough tomatoes with Terry Brandon’s help in the Hoop House to make enough sauce for the Harvest Pasta Dinner in October.
- f) Grounds (Chair – Roy Benner) (Annual report submitted)
- i) Roy first wanted to thank Member, Tracy Smith, who had volunteered to plan the layout, planting and maintenance of the Slave Garden in 2018 and continued her stewardship through 2019. The Henson-Hall Slave Garden was a 2019 success! Tracy included such period plantings as fish peppers, tobacco, cotton, and sorghum. Visitors at Open Houses were able to see and sometimes taste the kinds of crops that would have been grown and harvested by slaves. Roy is planning to write a thank you letter and create a Certificate of Recognition to give to Tracy Smith acknowledging her hard work.
  - ii) Roy also wanted to thank Paul Bunting; a Member who helps Roy cut grass.
  - iii) Roy discussed the various donations that he received for Goshen Farm, such as the Milwaukee Sickle Bar that was donated by Atlantis Community.
  - iv) Roy also thanked Terry Brandon for all the Educational Events and Programs that he has hosted at Goshen Farm in 2019.
  - v) Roy addressed a major project in 2019 - the Shallow Water Wildlife Pond Project. Roy conceived of this plan to address the run-off and drainage problem of the Farm House. All the water came right down to the Farm house foundation and was causing problems with the foundation. He drew up plans to eliminate that problem and pipe that water to a new pond. The remnants of

an old pond were already there but needed reshaping and excavating. It was indicated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that this work would cost about \$5,000.00. However, when Roy started the process of getting bids, the bids for this project ranged from \$13,000 - \$29,000. Roy knew GFPS could not afford what these contractor bids were asking. Though this was discouraging, Roy negotiated a cost sharing agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture for about \$2,200.00 towards project completion. Ultimately, this grant reduced the cost to GFPS to about \$2,200.00.

- vi) Roy reported on two projects involving students from Anne Arundel Community College. Terry worked with Brandon Meyer in the Hoop House on an aquaponics project and the student developed a Power Point Presentation. Roy and Dean Cowherd worked with Lauren Guidry on “Predominant Soils” at Goshen Farm and she developed a PowerPoint Presentation on this project. We are hoping to get these PowerPoint Presentations on the GFPS website.
- vii) Roy stated we are required under our BoE Lease that when we do a project like this, we must send the completion information to the BoE, certified mail. Roy did this and the BoE signed off on the project.
- viii) Roy also reported on the Eagle Scout Projects completed for 2019. One Eagle Scout project completed by Aiden Girout was building and putting up ten Blue Bird Houses. Another project by Connor Shaw was done on the Iron Stone Quarry. He cleared paths to and in the quarry and put signs in that area.
- ix) Roy reported that we have had a lot of problems with erosion on our driveway. He and others built and placed diverters (erosion berms) on the driveway, but certain areas are still having problems with erosion and cars are bottoming out on these berms. They have tried several ways to correct these problems to no avail. Roy will continue to work on this issue in 2020.
- x) During the Grounds report, Member Chris Biondi stated that he has a tumble composter that he can donate to Goshen Farm if they can use it. Terry Brandon stated that he has a new project on composting with students and he could use this composter.
- g) History (Chair – Scott Powers) (No report submitted)
- h) Membership (Chair – Becky Benner) (Annual report submitted)
  - i) Becky showed her colored bar graph comparing Membership growth from 2007 through early 2020. She encouraged Members to reach out to neighbors and friends to encourage them to join GFPS.
  - ii) Becky held up the tri-fold pamphlet that she first developed in 2018 that has a brief history of Goshen Farm, important milestones by GFPS for Goshen Farm, our Mission Statement, information about GFPS, our Events Calendar and a Membership Form (all on this trifold). Becky also reminded Members that their friends could join on our GFPS website using Pay Pal.
  - iii) Becky summarized her additional work at the Farm with Terry, Roy, and Bob with educational programs, agrarian projects, history projects and so much more.

- iv) Becky stated that she hopes we will have an Education Committee Chair soon because so much of our focus is on not just the Farm House and history but educating “Children of all ages”.
  - v) Becky also reported on the Pollinator Garden and the Monarch Waystation that Member, Larry Jennings designed last year in 2018 and Roy made sure it was constructed. Roy did not do this alone – he involved The Harbour School Students, the Sharing Gardeners and a host of other schools and groups to help construct this large garden. So, in 2019, Becky asked the Anne Arundel County Master Gardeners to come to Goshen Farm, do an evaluation of the Farm and see if we would qualify to be a Bay- Wise Property. Three Master Gardeners came to the Farm and granted us a Bay- Wise Certification number SO23. She also applied to the Monarch Watch and we are Monarch Waystation Number 25434.
  - vi) Becky reported that there is much produce grown in the Hoop House. Member, Terry Brandon makes sure that this produce is delivered to those in need – Salvation Army, My Brother’s Pantry, College Parkway Place, and other locations.
  - vii) As regards Intern Programs in the County, Becky is going to focus on interns from AACCC as they consistently agree to do a project, work hard, and complete the project. After a year sabbatical, Becky will also again look at interns at the high school level. She has done this in the past and except for two high school interns, she was very disappointed in the follow through of both the AACPS Intern Program Facilitators and the students.
  - viii) Last, Becky stated that as Members can see, Board Members are “wearing many hats”. We do need much more help; not just with coming up to the Farm to volunteer for projects and events but to Chair or work on Committees. She asked those Members present to think about stepping up and asking others to do so as well.
7. Election of Members to the Board of Directors, approval of By-Law change and approval of Board of Director’s proposed FY 2020 Budget.
- a) VP Buchet asked for two members to count ballots. Two Members, Laura Murray and Chris Biondi, volunteered.
  - b) Michael asked for a motion to discuss the budget. Chris Biondi made a motion to discuss the budget. Doug McClelland seconded. Hearing no discussion, Michael stated we will discuss the ballot. Michael explained that the By-Laws authorize a Board of up to 13 Members. There are four continuing Board Members so there are 9 vacancies on the Board of Directors. We can write in as many candidates as we like, and we can accept nominations from the Floor. After the election to the Board of Directors and we get the results, the new Board of Directors will repair to the office for a Closed Session. In that session, the Board decides who the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary will be. The new President makes assignments to the committees and At-large Board Members. This should take about 10 Minutes. Michael encouraged the Members to enjoy the food and beverages while we are in Closed Session. Michael asked for nominations from the Floor. There were none. Barbara Morgan asked if she

voted on line does she vote tonight on the ballot. Michael stated that the Electronic Ballot on line using the Google function did not work so those at the Meeting who voted on line need to vote again. Chris Biondi and Jenni Biondi had to leave so Laura picked Stephen Stocker to count votes with her. Michael asked all Members who were on the Ballot if they are willing to run. They all stated, "Yes". Lou asked for a motion to elect Louis Biondi, Sharon Biondi, Christy Folderauer, Barbara Morgan, Rose Mary Stocker, Erik Wallace, Terry Brandon, and Scott Powers by Acclamation. Bob Nestruck seconded the motion. The motion carried. Lou cast a vote for everyone on the slate. Michael next asked all Members to cast the ballots for or against the By-Law change and the FY 2020 Budget. Laura collected the ballots and she and Stephen repaired to the office to count.

- c) Michael Buchet announced the results of the By-Law change and FY 2020 Budget by ballot. Proposed Budget: 21 for and 0 against, By-Law change: 19 for and 2 against. Both the Proposed Budget and the By-Law change passed.
- 8. Old Business
  - a) None
- 9. New Business
  - a) None
- 10. Comments from the floor
  - a) None from the floor
- 11. At 9 PM Michael stated that we move to Closed Session to elect Officers and then assign Chairs and At-large positions.
- 12. Meeting Reconvened at 9:27 PM.
  - a) Lou Biondi announced the newly Board Elected Officers to the Membership: President – Lou Biondi, Vice President – Michael Buchet, Treasurer – Christy Folderauer and Secretary – Sharon Biondi.
  - b) Lou Biondi also announced that the following Committee Chairs agreed to serve another year: Barbara Morgan, Communications Chair; Erik Wallace, Events Coordinator;;Louis Biondi, Financial Development Chair; Bob Nestruck Garden Chair; Scott Powers, History and Research Chair; Roy Benner, Grounds Chair; Becky Benner, Membership Chair; and Rose Mary Stocker, Board Member At-Large.
- 13. Adjournment
  - a) Bob Nestruck moved to adjourn and Becky Benner seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.