

**Goshen Farm Preservation Society Annual Membership Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2021**

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| <b>Called by:</b>                              | Louis Biondi  | <b>Type of Meeting:</b> | Board of Directors<br>Annual Membership<br>Meeting |
| <b>Facilitator:</b>                            | Louis Biondi  | <b>Recorder:</b>        | Sharon Biondi                                      |
| <b>Date:</b>                                   | January 27, 2021  | <b>Time:</b>            | 7:32 PM  |
| <b>Location:</b>                               | Zoom Teleconference   |                         |  |
| <b>BOD Attending:</b>                          | Louis Biondi, Rebecca Benner, Roy Benner, Sharon Biondi, Linda Beck, Michael Buchet, Erik Wallace, Rose Mary Stocker, Barbara Morgan, Christy Folderauer, Terry Brandon and Bob Nestruck    |                         |  |
| <b>Chairman, Members and Guests Attending:</b> | Barbara Breeden, George Breeden, Cindy Wallace, Diane Kinsley, Laura Murray, Michael Long, Linda Paez, Susan Brandon, Brent Shaw, Larry Jennings Merja Laakso-Washburn, and Heather Bagnall |                         |  |

1. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 7:32 PM by President, Louis Biondi. President Louis Biondi welcomed all members and thanked them for making the effort to join us virtually on Zoom 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. President Biondi 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, the Members can remain on the Zoom link or rejoin us at a time announced before Closed Session. After the Closed Session, we will reconvene and announce the new Officers and Chairs. He also stated that the Board Members appreciate participation of Members in this Annual Membership Meeting and we will entertain comments and answer general questions when the meeting is opened 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 122 Membership units, and we need 10% attendance which is 12 attendees. We have 23 members present and thus meet our quorum requirement.
3. President's Remarks and Annual Report of the Board of Directors
  - a) President Lou Biondi asked all Chair Members and Officers to introduce themselves.
  - b) President Biondi announced that today is Holocaust Remembrance Day.
  - c) President Lou Biondi then reviewed the Agenda for tonight's Meeting.
  - d) President Biondi noted that this is the first virtual Annual Membership Meeting that GFPS has held. Lou apologized to Board Members and Members who had

difficulty pulling up and filling in the Ballots. GFPS started in December letting Members know what the process would be.

- e) Annual Report of the Board of Directors
  - i) President Lou Biondi stated that he first wanted to thank all Board of Directors for their hard work throughout 2020. Much of this year's activity was hampered by the COVID-19 Pandemic and yet much was still accomplished by this hardworking and determined Board! They kept the organization running, kept the funds flowing and maintained and improved the property.
    - (1) Lou Biondi particularly thanked Michael Buchet who served as Vice President and who is not running for the Board in 2021. He served a key role in organizing our new QuickBooks financial reporting system, He led the Ad hoc Committee to develop Committee Chair Responsibilities and Committee Guidelines for the various Committees so that when Members were elected to the Board, they know what they are responsible for as Chair Persons and what their committee's responsibilities are specifically.
    - (2) Lou recognized Linda Beck who served as a Board Member At Large and her previous years as Treasurer.
    - (3) Lou thanked Events Chair, Erik Wallace. Erik had a light year due to the cancellation of most of our events but assisted with technical assistance to ensure that events held on-line were successful. Erik has been helpful with input in many administrative decisions. He also has been maintaining the Goshen Farm Apiary which has produced significant honey harvests for several years. Erik increased the Members helping to maintain the Apiary.
    - (4) Lou thanked Barbara Morgan, Communications Chair for her hard work in 2020. Barbara reinstated the Quarterly Newsletter, wrote the monthly "The Caper" articles – working with History Chair, Scott Powers, to include a section of her article about the history of Goshen Farm and its owners. This added segment reminds The Caper readers of why GFPS is working to save an important part of local history. She also sent out Mailchimp blasts when GFPS needed to send out information quickly. Lastly, Barbara strived to create an efficient working relationship with Shannon Beauchamp Lepthian, our wonderful GFPS website Manager at Color Fire Media.
    - (5) Lou highlighted the work of Bob Nestruct, Garden Chair to set up our Wi-Fi network at the Farm, expand the Wi-Fi and research additional expansion of our WiFi. Bob does more than his responsibilities for maintaining and renting plots in the Sharing Garden.
    - (6) Lou thanked Roy Benner, Grounds Chair, for his amazing level of effort. Lou stated that Roy has done so much with and beyond his responsibilities as Grounds Chair that the Members should read Lou's summary, the Annual Report of the Board of Directors, for more of what Roy has accomplished in 2020. (Packet attachment sent out for this Meeting.)
    - (7) Lou thanked Scott Powers, History and Research Chair, for his continued research on the history of Goshen Farm. Scott is also helping Ann Brice

Worthington with her book on the history of Goshen Farm when it was owned by the Brice Family.

- (8) President Biondi thanked Rebecca “Becky” Benner, Membership Chair, for her record achievements in 2020! Thanks to Becky’s creative efforts, so many Members and new Members have responded early in our Membership renewal rotation cycle. The result: GFPS reached a record high for memberships by January 20, 2021! Becky has taken on so many tasks in 2020 that Lou again suggested that Members read the Annual Report of the Board of Directors to know the dedication of our “Editor in Chief”.
- (9) Last, Lou Biondi recognized Member, Larry Jennings. Though Larry is not on the Board, Larry assisted with the creation of the Pollinator Garden and the Monarch Waystation. He also applied for a grant from Unity Gardens and oversaw the planting of hundreds of plants around the Shallow Water Wildlife Pond. The plants were all native species and were intended to provide food and habitat for the wildlife in and around the pond.
4. Lou announced the ballot count results. The January 15, 2020 Minutes were approved, the three candidates on the ballot were elected, the financial report was approved, the budget for 2021 was approved and the amendment to Article VII Section 5 to the GFPS By-Laws was approved.
5. Lou spoke to the need in 2021 for a complete update of the GFPS By-Laws including making the Educational Outreach Committee a Standing Committee.
6. Old Business
  - a) None
7. New Business
  - a) None
8. Comments from the floor
  - a) Michael Buchet reminded the Board to find an accountant for completing GFPS taxes for 2020. Michael thanked Members and Board Members for all of their efforts and support.
  - b) President Biondi gave a brief update on the status of our 2020 Maryland Capitol Projects Grant. He praised the two people at the General Services Department who have guided him through the process thus far.
9. At 8:00 PM President Biondi stated that we will move to Closed Session to elect Officers and then assign Chairs and At-Large positions. Erik Wallace who graciously set up this virtual Meeting let the Members know they could stay in the Zoom Meeting room and talk among themselves while we are in Closed Session and we will resume the Meeting at 8:30 PM. He explained to the Board Members how to log on to the site for the Closed Session.
10. Meeting Reconvened at 8:30 PM.
  - a) President Lou Biondi announced the newly Board Elected Officers to the Membership: President – Lou Biondi, Vice President – Erik Wallace, Treasurer – Christy Folderauer and Secretary – Sharon Biondi. Lou Biondi also announced that the following Committee Chairs agreed to serve another year: Barbara Morgan, Communications Chair; Erik Wallace, Event Chair;

Louis Biondi, Financial Development Chair; Bob Nestruck, Garden Chair; Scott Powers History and Research Chair; Becky Benner, Membership Chair; Roy Benner, Grounds Chair, Rose May Stocker, Board Member At Large; Terry Brandon, (Educational Outreach) Board Member At- Large; and newly elected Linda Paez, Board Member At Large.

b) Comments from the floor

- (1) Delegate Heather Bagnall, who joined the Meeting after Closed Session, was invited to speak by President Biondi. Delegate Bagnall complimented the Board of Directors on: 1. The “resiliency of GFPS”; 2. The mission to “stabilize the beautiful historic Farm House”; 3.the “outdoor resource”; and 4. providing an “oasis in a trying year”.

11. Adjournment

- a) Bob Nestruck moved to adjourn, and Terry Brandon seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.