

**Goshen Farm Preservation Society Annual Membership Meeting Minutes  
January 15, 2025**

<b>Called by:</b>	Erik Wallace	<b>Type of Meeting:</b>	Board of Directors Annual Membership Meeting
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Erik Wallace	<b>Recorder:</b>	Sharon Biondi
<b>Date:</b>	January 15, 2025	<b>Time:</b>	7:30 PM
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom Teleconference and In person at the CSC Clubhouse		
<b>BOD Attending:</b>	Erik Wallace, Barbara Morgan, Rebecca Benner, Roy Benner, Sharon Biondi, Shannon Beauchamp Lephien, Bob Nestruck, and Linda Páez Attended via Zoom: Christy Folderauer, Dirk Schwenk, and Terry Brandon		
<b>Members and Guests Attending:</b>	Lou Biondi, Larry Jennings, Margarette Jennings, Marcia Dudley, Jessica Corliss, Jeanne Klingler, Rose Mary Stocker, David Wamsley, Lori Runk, Priscilla Schneider, Charles Goldblum, Beth Robbins, Geraldine Lockwood, Laura Murray and Jenni Biondi Attended via Zoom:		

1. The Annual Membership Meeting was called to order on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 7:30 PM by President, Erik Wallace.
2. President Erik Wallace welcomed all Members and thanked them for making the effort to join us virtually on Zoom and In-person at the CSC Clubhouse as we appreciate membership participation at the Goshen Farm Preservation Society, Inc. (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 over the last year, to approve the GFPS budget, approve By-Laws changes, and to elect the Board of Directors for 2025.
  - a) President Wallace introduced himself and the Board Members present in person to those attending.
3. Certification of a Quorum
  - a) President Wallace certified that we have a list of all the Members attending virtually on Zoom and in-person and have reached a quorum at this meeting. As of this meeting date according to the Membership Chair, we have 132 Members. We need 10% attendance which is 13 Member attendees. We have 24 Members present and 3 Members on Zoom. We meet our quorum requirement.
4. Review of Minutes – January 17, 2024, Annual Membership Meeting
  - a) President Wallace asked for any changes, additions, or corrections to the Minutes. **Larry Jennings made a motion to approve the January 17, 2024 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes. Lou Biondi seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
  - b) President Wallace explained to 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 and those attending in-person can stay and enjoy refreshments. After the Closed Session, we will reconvene and announce the new Officers and Chairs. The Board will entertain comments and answer general questions when the Meeting is reopened to the floor.

5. President's Remarks and Annual Report of the Board of Directors (sent via MailChimp and copies provided at the In-person Meeting)
  - a) President Wallace asked if there were any questions or corrections on the President's Annual Report to the Membership. Hearing none, President Wallace mentioned some of the highlights of the year.
    - i) Erik highlighted the successful lease negotiations with the Anne Arundel County Board of Education (AACBOE) which resulted in a 25-year lease with GFPS. Erik thanked District 5 School Board Representative Dana Schallheim and Anne Arundel Public School (AACPS) Chief Operating Officer Dr. William Heiser who were instrumental in coming to final terms of the Lease Addendum.
    - ii) Erik also discussed the Mitigation Plan which was conditionally approved November 6, 2024. The Cape St. Claire Fire Station plans to build a new facility. Due to its location in a Critical Area zone, the permitting process requires the Fire Station to plant 5.5 acres of trees to offset environmental impacts. Goshen Farm's 23 acres were identified as a planting site. The plan includes removing 2 acres of invasive trees and vines, planting 3.5 acres of native trees and shrubs, and seeding. It is hoped that the planting at Goshen Farm and the Fire Station site will be completed by fall 2026.
    - iii) President Wallace thanked Roy Benner for the recent renovation of the Servant's Quarters which will honor Dr. Morris Leon Radoff and his wife May Radoff – the last private owners of Goshen Farm prior to current AACBOE ownership. Dr. Radoff was the Maryland Archivist for 46 years (1939-1975).
    - iv) Last, Erik shared the sad news that GFPS was mourning the loss of Member E B. 'Pat' Furgurson, a longtime supporter of Goshen Farm who passed away in December. Pat was a reporter for the Capital Gazette and volunteered as the "chef" for GFPS's Annual Harvest Pasta Dinner for many years.
  - b) President Wallace invited Committee Chairs to mention highlights of their Annual reports to the Membership.
    - i) Garden Chair Bob Nestruck shared that the Sharing Gardeners were holding a "Seed Swap" on January 26<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii) Grounds Chair, Roy Benner stated that GFPS has benefited from 28 Eagle Scout projects and 2 Gold Award project since the inception of these programs at Goshen Farm. Currently in 2025 there are 4 Eagle Scout projects in progress! Roy also mentioned the adding of electric floodlights for the lower parking area, improving safety during the evening events and thanked Richard's Tree Care and Dave Sloskey from Connect Electric for their assistance.
    - iii) Education Chair Terry Brandon highlighted the replanting in the Hoop House from 120 to over 450 plants despite challenges from extreme summer heat. The Farm's Hoop House initiative continues its mission to grow food for low-

income families and donate to My Brother's Pantry. Terry also highlighted the Broadneck HS Environmental Literacy Signature Program that included representatives from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Department of Agriculture and GFPS host, Terry Brandon Chair of the Educational Outreach Committee.

- iv) Membership Chair Becky Benner noted that the committee saw growing engagement in 2024 with membership projected to surpass the 2023 total of 246 Members. Becky Benner also secured a grant to update and print the GFPS brochure. Lastly Becky stated that the Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area (CCHA) inclusion of GFPS among its heritage sites has given GFPS many more opportunities to apply for grants.
- v) Member At-Large Chair Linda Páez thanked GFPS Member Geraldine Lockwood and History & Research Chair Scott Powers for their assistance in doing the research for completing the Application for the National Park Service Underground Railroad "Network to Freedom" website. Linda also highlighted GFPS's contract with Neighborhood Sun (NS). For each Member who signs up with Neighborhood Sun benefits GFPS receives a \$100.00 donation from the company. In December of 2024, NS and GFPS held a seminar on Zoom for Members interested in signing up.
- c) Erik Wallace asked if there were any questions regarding the Committee Chairs' Annual Report to the Membership.
  - i) Member Jeanne Klingler asked the Board if there was someone surveying at the Farm as she had observed a man and surveying equipment when she was gardening. Roy suggested that this may be related to the Mitigation Plan and boundaries.
  - ii) Another Member who did not identify himself asked about the overabundance of cattails in the Shallow Water Wildlife Pond. Roy responded that he is researching safe herbicides to decrease the cattails.
  - iii) President Wallace encouraged those attending who have not read the 2024 Annual Report to Membership to do so and have a better insight into the many work projects that were accomplished in 2024 and the work and planning involved for these committee chairs and volunteers who assisted them.
- 6. Treasurer's Report for December 31, 2024 – Christy Folderauer (copies provided under separate cover)
  - a) Christy reported that the total in the GFPS checking account was \$92,722.27 and \$88,801.08 in the savings account.
  - b) **Lou Biondi made a motion to approve the December 31, 2024 Treasurer's Report and Bob Nestruck seconded. The motion carried.**
- 7. Presentation of the GFPS, Inc. 2024 proposed budget (sent via MailChimp and copies provided to in-person Member attendees)
  - a) President Wallace directed Members to the printed budget.
  - b) President Wallace stated that working with Sharon Smith, certified QuickBooks advisor, and our Treasurer, the Society has adopted an activity-based budgeting process which is presented here. Each Committee will have its budget reviewed and approved at the February Board of Directors Meeting and funds approved in

those budgets can be spent without further consultation with the Board of Directors. If something large comes up that is not in the budget, there is an Emergency Expenditure Policy and if the expense is over the Emergency Expenditure limit, the Chair must ask the Board for approval for something that is outside their committee's budget at the next Board Meeting. President Wallace asked if there were any questions regarding the budget. There were none.

8. Explanation of how the on-line vote was conducted
  - a) President Wallace stated that GFPS is fortunate to have Barbara Morgan as our Vice President and Shannon Beauchamp Lepthien as our Communications Chair. Barbara chose a software package, SurveyLegend, for voting on-line. Coordinating with Shannon, they were able to include on the Ballot the candidates for the election, the Budget question and include non-ballot questions related to Members who would be willing to chair committees and Members who would be willing to serve on committees. This is invaluable information to advancing growth for GFPS. The link to the voting website was emailed to the most current list of Members on January 8, 2025.
  - b) The data for the ballots cast on-line were downloaded on January 14, 2024 and checked against those Members of record as of January 15, 2025 by the President, the Membership Chair and the Vice President..
  - c) President Wallace stated that in reviewing the on-line ballots, we had a total of twenty-eight (28) valid ballots that came from SurveyLegend. We had nine (9) paper ballots from tonight's meeting. For a total of thirty-seven (37) ballots cast.
9. Naming of vote tabulators
  - a) Members Gerry Lockwood, Laura Murray and Fran Bents agreed to count votes from the Ballot spreadsheet compiled from SurveyLegend and tonight's paper ballots.
10. Vote on Board of Directors and Budget
  - a) President Wallace reported that we had six (6) Members for six (6) vacancies on the Board.
    - i) The Members running for reelection to the Board were Rebecca Benner, Roy Benner, Sharon Biondi, and Robert Nestruck. Jessica Corliss and Lori Runk were newly running for the Board. Rebecca received thirty-seven (37) votes, Roy received thirty-seven (37) votes, Sharon received thirty-six (36) votes, Robert received thirty-three (33) votes, Jessica received thirty (30) votes and Lori received twenty-nine (29) votes. All four candidates on the ballot running for reelection were reelected. Two candidates running for the first time were elected. The budget was approved with thirty-five (35) votes.
  - b) **Sharon Biondi moved that we accept the proposed GFPS, Inc. 2025 proposed budget and Board of Directors. Bob Nestruck seconded. The motion carried.**
11. Closed Session
  - a) President Wallace stated that the Board would move into Closed Session at 8:00 PM to elect Officers and then assign Chairs and Member At-Large positions.
  - b) **Barbara Morgan made a motion to move into Closed Session. Sharon Biondi seconded and the motion carried. Erik let the Members who were on ZOOM**

know that we were moving into Closed Session and those Board Members who were in the Closed Session remotely, would go to the second link that they were sent. He stated that we would be in Closed Session about 15 minutes and then return to announce the Officers and the Committee Chairs for 2025. We will hold a Question and Answer (Q&A) Session and have comments from the floor. Members and guests could stay, have refreshments or were free to leave.

12. Annual Membership Meeting reconvened at 8:30 PM.
13. Announcement of Election of Officers by President Erik Wallace
  - a) Erik Wallace – President
  - b) Barbara Morgan – Vice President
  - c) Christy Folderauer – Treasurer
  - d) Sharon Biondi – Secretary
14. President Wallace also announced that all Committee Chairs present agreed to serve another year. Linda Páez agreed to continue as Member At-Large. He also stated Jessica Corliss and Lori Runk are Financial Development Co-Chairs. We are still searching for a Volunteer Coordination Chair. The Chairs for 2025 are as follows:
  - a) Louis Biondi – Building and Maintenance Chair
  - b) Shannon Beauchamp Lepthien- Communications Chair
  - c) Terry Brandon - Educational Outreach Chair
  - d) Barbara Morgan/Christy Folderauer - Events Co-Chairs
  - e) Bob Nestruck - Garden Chair
  - f) Roy Benner - Grounds Chair
  - g) Scott Powers - History & Research Chair
  - h) Becky Benner - Membership Chair
  - i) Dirk Schwenk – Security Chair
  - j) Jessica Corliss/Lori Runk – Financial Development Co-Chairs
15. Open Q&A Session and comments from the floor
  - a) There were no questions or comments from the Floor.
16. Adjournment
  - a) **Shannon Beauchamp Lepthien moved to adjourn, and Lou Biondi seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.**