

Greensboro Association Annual Meeting  
August 5, 2021  
4-6pm  
In person at Fellowship Hall and via Zoom

Board Members present: Becky Arnold, Stew Arnold, Vince Cabbage, Andy Dales, Linda Ely, Karen Gowen, Betsy Hunt, Cathy Irwin, Rick Lovett, Havilah Stewart Mann, Mike Metcalf, Tim Nisbet, Mary Parker, Day Patterson, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, John Schweizer, Sara Slater, Allison Stegner, John Stone

Absent: Rob Hurst, Mary White

**Welcome**-Vince Cabbage called the meeting to order at 4:06pm

A quorum of 61 members was required: 51 people attended in person, 52 signed proxies were collected, and 11 attended via Zoom for a total of 114 attendees.

**Minutes**-John Stone proposed, and Cathy Irwin seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting, which were available on the GA website. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Governance Committee**-Havilah Mann and Day Patterson updated the group on the changes to the By-Laws, which had not been revised since 2013. The biggest changes include:

- reducing the Board size from 21 to 18
- requiring at least 12 of the 18 Board members to be permanent or seasonal residents of the town of Greensboro
- allowing all communications to take place via email
- requiring 10% of the membership to constitute a quorum
- maintaining 3 existing committees (Executive, Nominating, & Finance) and requiring additional standing and ad hoc committees to formulate and adopt, with the board's approval, a committee charter that shall specify the scope of the powers, authority and responsibilities of the respective committee and the policies and procedures by which the committee shall conduct its business.

There was some discussion clarifying why the Board would have non-Greensboro permanent or seasonal residents on it, and it was pointed out that there may be appropriate and interested individuals who are employed in Greensboro, or who live in very close proximity to the town's borders and are involved community members.

**The motion to approve the new By Laws was made by Stew Arnold and seconded by Mike Metcalf and passed unanimously.**

**Nominating Committee**-Linda Ely proposed and Cathy Irwin seconded a motion to accept the Nominating slate for the Class of 2024 (3-year terms), which was unanimously passed. The 2021-22 Board of the GA includes:

President: Vince Cabbage

Past President: John Stone

Vice Presidents: Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, Betsy Hunt, Allison Stegner

Secretary: Cathy Irwin  
Treasurer: Richard Lovett

Class of 2022: Betsy Hunt, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, Cathy Irwin, Allison Stegner, Stew Arnold, Linda Ely  
Class of 2023: Karen Gowen, Rob Hurst, John Schweizer, Mary White, Rick Lovett, Havilah Mann  
Class of 2024: Becky Arnold, Vince Cabbage, Mike Metcalf, Sara Slater, John Stone, Meaghan Meachem

Stepping down from the Board are Andy Dales, Tim Nisbet, Mary Parker, and Day Patterson. Many thanks for your dedicated service!

**Fund for Greensboro (FFG)** Becky Arnold reported that the FFG had an outstanding year, thanks to our generous community. The year ending 6/30/21 resulted in total donations to the Fund for Greensboro of \$105,640. She pointed out that the GA has a long history of giving back to our community, starting with the swim program and fireworks to more recently giving to local non-profit organizations in or near Greensboro. Over the past 10 years, there has been a recognition that we could and should bolster our annual grants for more significant needs, and the FFG is well on its way to providing that much-needed annual support. The FFG's current balance is \$456,575, with much of the income to be designated for local grant applicants.

**Financial Report** Rick Lovett reported that the Greensboro Association had a very good year ending 6/30/21, with revenues almost \$24,000 higher than budgeted. This increase was driven by generous donations to both the FFG and the Community Relief Fund, and Rick pointed out that the GA dues covered its operating expenses in this financial year (~5% of receipts), though with the rapid growth of the GA's charitable funds, required accounting and tax prep expenses will increase next year. Grants for the year totaled almost \$50,000, and net operating income was \$91,000. **Rick proposed, and Mary Parker seconded a motion to approve the GA 2022 Operating Budget, which passed unanimously.**

**Grants Report** John Schweizer shared that the Community Relief Fund, created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, distributed a total of \$61,312 in 2020/2021 to front-line agencies, primarily food and health (including mental health) -related organizations. The regular Grants Committee, which supports initiatives and organizations that enhance the Greensboro Community for both year-round and seasonal residents, awarded only \$6500 in grants for the fiscal year ending 6/30/21, due to many organizations and projects being put on hold during the pandemic. The second half of this calendar year, however, has seen an uptick in grant applications, and the committee has already awarded 12 grants totaling \$13,250.

**Other Business** There was a brief discussion of the status of workable internet access in Greensboro, an issue which has been handed over to the Northeast Kingdom Communications Union District (CUD). John Stone and Meaghan Meachem both addressed this issue, agreeing that decent internet speeds would arrive in Greensboro within a 3-5 year horizon.

There being no additional business, the business portion of the GA Annual Meeting concluded at approximately 5pm.

### **Presentations**

**Peter Romans, Greensboro's Select Board Chair, introduced Orleans County Sheriff Jennifer Harlow, who talked about her experience in law enforcement, and took multiple questions from the audience.**

Stew Arnold, Chair of the Lake Committee, introduced **Oliver Pierson, Vermont-Dept of Environmental Conservation Lakes and Ponds Program Manager**, who discussed the pros and cons of re-classifying Caspian Lake as A1 versus B2. Basically, reclassification would bring more attention to the lake and the need to be proactive in protecting its water quality. In addition, if Caspian's water quality decreased below the A1 criteria, the lake would be classified as impaired, and resources would be available to mitigate the sources of the problems causing the decline in water quality.

Stew then introduced **Emily Finnegan from the Orleans County Natural Resource Conservation District**, who has been leading the Lakewise Program on Caspian. There have been more than a dozen free property assessments so far, which educate homeowners on best practices to prevent direct water run-off into the lake. More assessments are planned for next year.

Finally, Karen Gowen introduced **LauraLee Sweeney, Director of the Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFP), and co-manager of the Grow Your Own program**. The Food Pantry was a grateful recipient of funding from the GA's Community Relief Fund during the pandemic, and LauraLee reported that they provided food to 900 individuals over the past year. Because of demonstrated need in the HAFP service area, they recently teamed up with locations in Albany and Craftsbury for emergency food distribution. Since March 2020, the agency estimates a 25% increase in total households served monthly, with 30% accessing the delivery program and 30% accessing more frequent visits. They have recently seen their numbers decline somewhat, getting closer to pre-pandemic levels.

The GA Annual Meeting concluded at approximately 6pm.

**Future Meeting Dates:**

**August 19, 2021—4-6pm**

**October 21, 2021—4-6pm via Zoom**