



OUTREACH SURVEY RESULTS

This report summarizes the findings from a survey of Greensboro Association (GA) members taken during the summer and fall of 2011. 143 responses were collected, representing XXX% association members. The purpose of the survey was to present the current mission, priorities and activities of the GA and gauge whether this reflects the current values and priorities of existing members. Further, the survey intended to gather new ideas for future activities.

HIGHLIGHTS

GA Mission Statement

- There is a lot of general support for the mission; 95.7% agree with it. Additional supportive comments about Greensboro included noting Greensboro's lack of change over time, socioeconomic integration, sense of community and support for non-profits. Concerns about the mission statement include the desire to take non-profits out of the mission statement, financial viability of businesses and adding environmental stewardship and that 'key issues that concern our members' language is too vague.

GA Priorities

- The clear priority for survey respondents is to Protect and Maintain the Quality of Caspian Lake; 88.6% respondents rated it as a 10 (highest priority). Other priorities in order of ranking: Provide Grants to Fund Local Civic Projects, Print & Distribute the GA Directory, Research & Provide Information on Issues Important to Residents, Promote Boating and Water Safety, Provide Grants to Area 501c3 Non-Profits, and Provide Summer Entertainment.

- As noted above in comments about the GA mission statement, survey respondents are somewhat divided on support for local non-profits. 41.8% (55) rated it as a 8 or above. 16.6% of respondents (22) rated providing grants to non-profits as a 3 or below. The remainder, 41.6% (55) rated it between 4-7.
- Other suggested priorities include: support for farming, food pantry donations when part-time residents leave, helping to support positive dynamics between varied community interests, involving more young people in GA activities, regulate visual pollution in town, limit too many entertainment options, end the fireworks, reducing property taxes/increasing nonresident input into spending, provide rental guidelines/lake rules, monitor septic systems, preserving GA money for environmental concerns that could arise, taking a position on police policies, village beautification and providing maps.
- Survey respondents were overwhelmingly supportive of the GA taking on village improvement projects as a general concept: 97.7% (119).
- When asked about support for organizations/civic projects, Caspian Lake Beach Committee, Greensboro Free Library, Greensboro Swimming Program and soil and invasive species research (lake protection measures) were the top 5 priorities.
- Following the top 5 projects were other civic projects - Hardwick Rescue Squad, Greensboro Historical Society and the 4th of July Celebration.
- When asked what actions they would you like to see the Greensboro Association initiate to improve the community the following suggestions were made: more GA Outreach, working towards better community dynamics, advocate for improved cell service, new and promotion of existing events, a bike path, more environmental efforts (inventory plants, education, loon recovery support, lake rules, partnership with the state, goose population reduction, silt monitoring, washing machine monitoring), exploring social service concerns in the community, civic projects (traffic flow monitoring, enforcement of speed limits, opening a cafe in town, work on the village green, creating a town logo, supporting select board projects, village welcome sign) and becoming more political.

Survey Demographics Table

	# of Responses	% of Responses
Total # of Responses	143	100
<i>Member Status</i>		
Yes	127	92.0
No	11	8.0
<i>Age</i>		
Under 18	0	0
18-24	3	2.1
25-34	8	5.7
35-44	14	10.0
45-64	69	49.3
65+	46	32.9
<i>Days Per Year in Greensboro</i>		
Under 7 days	8	5.7
7-30 days	55	39.3
31-90 days	29	20.7
91-180 days	15	10.7
181+	33	23.6
<i>Ownership Status</i>		
Rent	10	7.0
Own	118	83.0
Family-Owned	11	7.7
Other	3	2.1
<i>Member of Mountain View?</i>		
Yes	68	48.2
No	73	51.8
<i>VT Legal Resident?</i>		
Yes	44	31.2
No	97	68.8

- A majority of survey respondents are GA members, 45+ and own property in Greensboro.
- About 2/3 of respondents spend 3 months or less in Greensboro, and about a quarter of respondents spend 6+ months.
- About 1/2 of respondents are members of Mountain View Country Club.
- About 1/3 of respondents are legal VT residents.

Greensboro Association Mission

The Greensboro Association serves full-and part-time residents who share a vision to protect and enhance the culture and beauty we treasure in Greensboro. Priorities include keeping Caspian Lake and surrounding areas pristine, supporting non-profits and community activities and addressing key issues that concern our members.

- 95.7% of respondents (135) agree with the mission statement.

Statements of support for the mission statement:

General:

- “It encompasses it all.”
- “I love Greensboro and Caspian and want to keep our treasure pristine. For more than 50 years I have enjoyed the area.”
- “I think the mission is on point and the priorities are perfect.”
- “Mission covers all of the essentials”
- “It prioritizes the natural beauty and resources as well as supports local community efforts and the concerns of community members.”
- “Totally in support of your beautiful mission!”
- “What's not to agree with? This is what everyone should be doing wherever he or she lives -- and in Greensboro, we have a more precious environment to shelter, savor, preserve.”
- “All those ideals are worth supporting, after all, this is my summer HOME.”
- “Greensboro is a true treasure and it behooves all who use its facilities to contribute, to the extent possible, to their upkeep.”
- “The mission is clear and meet s the needs of the summer and year round community.”
- “Preserving Greensboro's natural beauty and the pristine quality of Caspian is important to me.”

Lack of Change Over Time:

- “We have been here for 80 years and little has changed. I'd like that to continue.”
- “Greensboro has looked the same (to me) since our house was finished in 1949. The natural beauty is a treasure.”

Socioeconomic Integration:

- “I joked that this was a place where the trashman got invited to the cocktail parties along with the Chief Justice.”

Sense of Community:

- “I am filled with memories of intergenerational activity like the Sunday evening concerts at Landon's or even shopping at Willeys...where everyone is pretty well known and there are many opportunities to fit in and feel a real part of the community life whether it be church, the golf club, church dinners, sailboat races, walking around the lake on a rainy day. Stuff that, for some may not be in their lives away from Greensboro.”

Non-Profit Support:

- “The non-profit support is essential to keep the community working i.e. the Library.”
- “Greensboro "works" because of the stable relationship between the full and part-time communities.... The lake is a very visible resource and focus that provides a setting for the vacation community, but of as much importance in maintaining the quality of life, are the many non-profits community activities that serve both full-time and part-time residents. The preschool, the local library, churches serve all year, but could not play as full and supportive a role without the individual support of part-time residents or the institutional support of the Association.”
- “As a Craftsbury resident who works for two local non-profits, I know the benefit of keeping our region beautiful and rural to attract visitors. The non-profits in our area are an important part of our communities and to the education and support of our residents.”
- “We appreciate all efforts to keep the lake and surrounding areas in pristine condition and believe that supporting all the various non-profits in the greater Greensboro area aids in achieving these goals.”
- “I believe the Association should focus on things the Town of Greensboro cannot do or is not likely to do, and should focus on programs that do not have their own strong independent fundraising programs. The Hardwick Rescue Squad seems like a Town project, not an Association project.”

Concerns and additional input about the mission statement:

Non-Profit Support:

- “Somebody slipped in non-profits. That stretches our resources too far. The association has enough of its own projects to spend our money on.”
- “Take out “supporting non-profits” from mission. Focus on the lake and if there is extra money, then you could use it for non-profits, but, it shouldn't be in the mission statement. Point them to the non-profits for direct support of their causes.”
- “My only concern is that money the GA gives to non for profits is not tax advantaged. And there are too many organizations for us to treat them fairly.”
- “Support of non-profits is iffy for me, although I would consider the Library more of a public service than other non-profits. Tax-Deductibility isn't really the issue for me.”
- “I agree except I do not think that supporting non-profits is a key mission.”
- “I believe that the primary focus of the organization should be lake protection and supportive civic projects, not giving grants.”
- “As my wife and I make annual donations to each of the 501c3 organizations listed above, it seems silly to have the GA do so as well, which is less tax efficient.”
- “I think that supporting 501c3 non-profits is better not done by the Greensboro Association. Taxpayers already support many of them through town appropriations. Corporate matching grants do not work unless the donation comes from an individual. Tax deductions do not work unless the donation comes from an individual.”
- “We should disseminate information about non profits directly to members for their support. There are too many for us to treat “fairly” - we tend to grease the squeaky wheel or the group with the best known (or more vocal) heads.”
- “Please don't spend my association money on non-profits; please just on lake preservation.”
- “If the GA decides not to continue to fund local non-profits as it's done in the past, then one alternative (to show support for the local community) is to offer a category on the membership renewal forms for “support for local non-profits”. Below the section that has the actual GA membership renewal box, you could have a section that reads “I'd like to support local non-profits that directly benefit the Greensboro community.” Following this have a box with a suggested donation (I'd say \$10, then another blank for the person to fill in their own amount if they wish to). Below this list 5 (or some smallish number of groups — could include the library, wonder and wisdom), with a short, one sentence description of each group and how it directly impacts the Greensboro community. Then the GA could decide how it wishes to disburse any money it has from this money pool (maybe more to library than some other group), but it's not taking money away from the GA's actual mission: which is to directly serve it's members.”

Financial Viability of Businesses:

- “In round terms, it is consistent with my sense of the GA's mission. I note, however, that it does not specifically address our continuing interest in the financial viability of businesses that are central to the Greensboro experience, including Willey’s and the Lodge.”

Environmental Stewardship:

- “You might add something about environmental stewardship.”
- “Fragility of the lake needs stewardship and commitment..”

General Community Support:

- “...quality of experience for children with access to outdoors, simply pleasures, and community needs to be nurtured; an arena to consider wider issues and challenges as the NEK grows and changes. Protecting and being vigilant about the uniquely simple and healthy place that is Greensboro.”
- “We need a good civic organization.”

Vagueness:

- "key issues that concern our members" is too vague and should be clarified.”

The Greensboro Association has a number of priorities including those listed below. On a scale from 1-10 (1 being 'lowest priority' and 10 being 'highest priority'), please rate:

	N	MEAN	MEDIAN	ST. DEV.
Protect and Maintain the Quality of Caspian Lake	140	9.8	10	0.64
Provide Grants to Fund Local Civic Projects (Swimming Program, Memorial Garden, Public Beach Patrol, 4th of July Fireworks, etc.)	132	8.0	8.0	1.8
Print & Distribute the GA Directory	138	8.0	8.0	2.0
Research & Provide Information on Issues Important to Residents	136	7.9	8.0	2.0
Promote Boating and Water Safety	138	7.3	8.0	2.4
Provide Grants to Area 501c3 Non-Profits (Wonder & Wisdom, Early Learning Center, GA Library, etc.)(Note: \$ provided to non-profits via the GA is not tax deductible)	136	6.3	6	2.8
Provide Summer Entertainment	134	5.5	6.0	2.6

- The clear priority for survey respondents is protecting and maintaining the quality of the lake. 88.6% respondents rated it as a 10 (highest priority).
- As noted above in comments about the GA mission statement, survey respondents are somewhat divided on support for local non-profits. 16.6% of respondents (22) rated providing grants to non-profits as a 3 or below. 41.8% (55) rated it as a 8 or above. The remainder, 41.6% (55) rated it between 4-7.

Thoughts about Organizational Priorities:

Support for Farming:

- “It would be nice for the Greensboro Association Board to work with local farmers and food organizations to ensure that farming remains an affordable and viable option for the broader (outside Greensboro) community.”

Food Pantry Donations:

- “I also think there must be a way to donate food leftover from summer people to a local food pantry.”

Community Dynamics:

- “I think in order to preserve Greensboro as a village and community it is important to support the land and lake AND the people who live here. Stewardship of the environment will only last so long unless we educate our youth about what it means to live in community. This means supporting our local non-profits in whatever ways we can.”
- “Prioritize to keep summer and winter residents working together.”
- “I feel the GA tends to cater to the monied summer set. Is there a way to broaden inclusion and interest to the people who have lived there for centuries, mostly as farmers?”
- “Continued vigilance about NEK economic and political dynamics; I think the 30's - 50's age group needs to somehow start to become more involved..”
- “Of course the Lake is the highest priority, but the rest of the village is equally important. The families who live there and have provided the stewardship of the land in the past need the support of everyone. Their ability to thrive should be of utmost importance. We didn't choose to buy in Stowe, we like Greensboro. I should say that cross country skiing is what brought us to the area, not the lake though we have learned what a treasure the lake is.”
- “I think the GA should concentrate on issues that benefit the community as a whole, while protecting the environment that is so attractive to the summer community.”

Involving Younger People:

- “[We] need to find ways to get younger people to become involved members in the GA.”

Visual Pollution:

- “As for village improvement - I strongly recommend the association encourage a ban on the tacky signs, sandwich boards, etc. that are cropping up in the summer - we are starting to look like cape cod in the summer.”
- “Stay alert of zoning regulations to preserve character of Greensboro.”

Summer Entertainment:

- “Is there any way for the Association to help limit the chaotic and overly abundant "entertainment" options in the summer? When did we stop appreciating nature and the water and get far too busy with other things?”

Fireworks:

- “The fireworks are not essential to me or my family and they cost a lot.”
- “Personally, I can live without fireworks. Why not come up with a creative alternative?”

Reducing Property Taxes/Increasing Non-Resident Input into Spending:

- “Be more active with lobbying efforts to reduce property taxes for non-resident summer use only property owners.”
- “I think a look into the property tax issue would be a good thing. How much do other comparably sized towns in VT spend on wages of town employees for example.”
- “The Association should become more political. The local residents don't pay any attention to the GA because the power is held in the Town Meeting (March). Second home owners pay well over 60% of the taxes. It is high time we stood up and were heard by the locals -- perhaps with going on the agenda of the Town Meeting with some of our own issues.”
- “It would be very valuable if the Greensboro Association could help members fight the insanely high property taxes that plague Greensboro. Unless that changes, Greensboro summer residents will be reduced to a combination of the uber wealthy and weekly renters (with no deep relationship to the community). Is that what we want?”
- “Investigate tax policies for lakefront properties and other "summer" properties.”

Rental Guidelines/Lake Rules:

- “Provide guidelines for the rental of cottages (including maximum number of people per cottage on lake front), etc.”
- “Educate the folks who like to be in a canoe or kayak after dark drifting around the lake that they HAVE TO HAVE LIGHTS ON THEMSELVES, OR ON THEIR BOATS. Its the LAW.”

- “There needs to be concerns about rentals....many more people do this to pay the taxes. They do not restrict the numbers of people in cottages, dogs, boats, cars, etc. This is important as it impacts the neighbors....”
- “Limit motor boat engine size to 10 hp or less.”
- “Maybe deal with the camp rental necessity somehow so that the lake continues to be protected, even by renters.”
- “Control/ regulate: NOISE, loose pets, private firecrackers (danger of staring fires). Folks should not have to listen to neighbors' choices of music or parties after 10:00 pm; nor clean up after loose dogs; nor worry about a fire cracker setting fires.”

Septic Systems:

- “I’m increasingly concerned about lakeside septic systems.Suggest GA research and provide info on alternatives and encourage regular monitoring of individual systems.”
- “Press for sewer around the perimeter of the Lake.”

Summer Entertainment:

- “Please don't infer that I feel summer entertainment is less important than local grants or lake quality. I believe that some of these things will happen organically - lake quality and local activities/ projects could suffer without Association support. I am convinced that we would "grow" the entertainment, the boating safety courses, and many others where the capacity exists or the need is recognized.”

Research:

- “The Association should be keeping a look out for state wide initiatives that could affect Greensboro either positively or negatively. e.g widening the Craftsbury Road.”

Preserving Money for Environmental Concerns that Could Arise:

- “The lake is important to the entire area - be careful distributing funds for other projects which will be needed when the milfoil issue occurs.”

Support Organizations that Provide Services Rather than GA Taking On:

- “Based on the questions asked above, I think that the Association's higher priorities would be supporting the organizations that specialize in and provide entertainment and safety education rather than taking those tasks on itself.”

Cell Service:

- “We need cell service in the community. The police and emergency department wants cell service. We need it for the vitality of the community. It is hard for families to stay for longer periods of time without cell service because so much depends on it. It is a safety issue. I remember the time when Greensboro and the lake were vibrant. Now you hardly even know anyone is on the lake. Remember when we use to have sail boat races on Sundays? The community is dying, Willey's can barely make it. At least make the technology that the rest of the country depends on available to the community.”

Police Policy:

- “Policies of the Hardwick Police are a source of great concern, most notably, their recent acquisition of Tasers. I feel that the Association should take a position against Taser possession by police and communicate the same to Greensboro and Hardwick Select Board members, especially since Caspian Lake is an area where this weapon is likely to be used.”

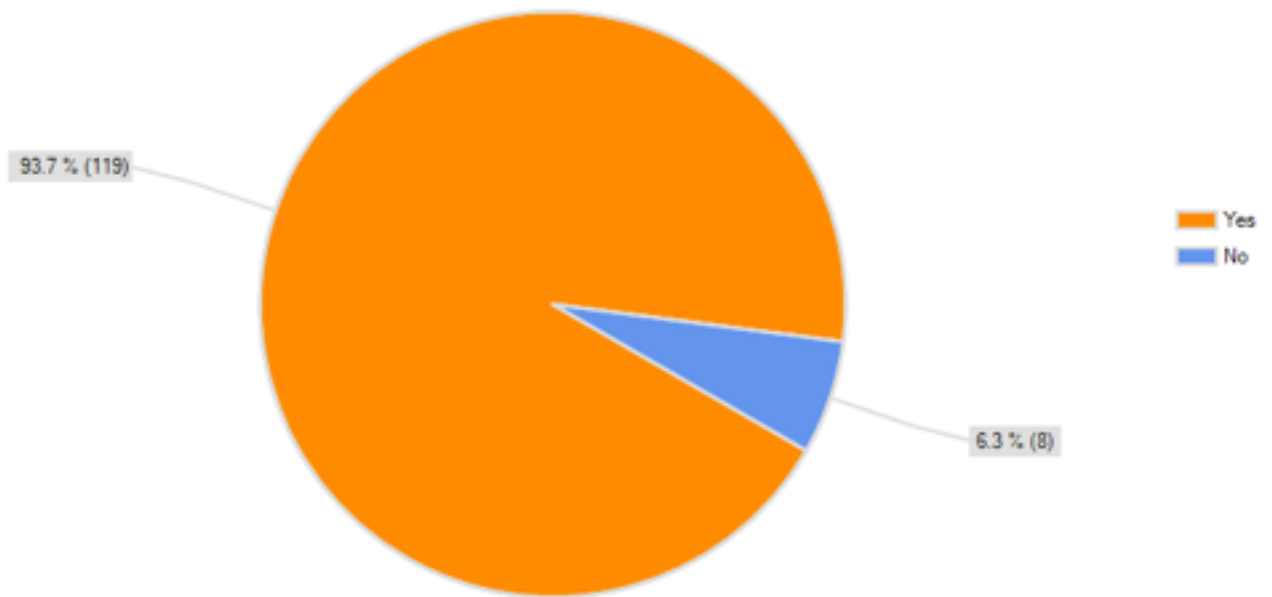
Village Beautification:

- “[Add] village beautification.”

Maps:

- “Please keep both the Farm Map and the Lake Map current and available.”
- “Producing the directory and the lake map are very good activities for the Association.”

If the Greensboro Association were to fund a village improvement project to beautify the village, would you be supportive of using funds for this effort (a past example would be the Elm tree project)?



The Greensboro Association gives grants to local 501C3 organizations and Civic Projects each fiscal year. On a scale from 1-10 (1 being 'not supportive' and 10 being 'very supportive'), how supportive are you of the following organizations/projects (these organizations represent what has been funded in the past with some additions per members' suggestions)?

	N	MEAN	MEDIAN	ST. DEV.
Caspian Lake Beach Committee	118	8.6	9.0	1.8
Greensboro Free Library	138	8.6	9.0	1.8
Invasive Species Research	133	8.4	9.0	2.1
Silt/Soil Studies Around the Lake	127	8.2	9.0	2.2
Greensboro Swimming Program	128	8.1	9.0	2.1
Hardwick Rescue Squad	127	8.0	9.0	2.4
Greensboro Historical Society	133	7.6	8.0	2.4
Greensboro 4th of July Celebration	132	7.5	8.0	3.0
Geese/Pollution Prevention	120	7.5	8.0	2.7
Greensboro Memorial Garden	125	7.4	8.0	2.3
Greensboro Cemetery Restoration	118	6.5	7.0	2.8
Greensboro Wonder & Wisdom	118	6.4	7.0	3.0
Four Seasons of Early Learning	115	6.2	6.0	3.0
Sidewalk Improvement	123	6.1	6.0	2.8
Sailboat Racing	96	6.1	6.5	2.8
Greensboro Welcome Sign	119	5.3	5.0	3.0

- Caspian Lake Beach Committee, Greensboro Free Library, Greensboro Swimming Program and soil and invasive species research (lake protection measures) are the top 5 priorities for survey respondents.
- This is followed by other civic projects - Hardwick Rescue Squad, Greensboro Historical Society and the 4th of July Celebration.

What action would you like to see the Greensboro Association initiate to improve the community?

Outreach/GA:

- “Outreach and communication with non traditional residents and newly arrived.”
- “I think the association should not fund any project that it does not itself at least partially oversee (and get proper credit for).”

Community Dynamics:

- “I would like to see more integration between the year-round and summer communities and it seems that the non-profit sector could be useful in doing so, as many organizations are currently receiving funding from the GA.”
- “Look around, the community is withering away. Taxes are so high folks rent out their places to support the property. Renters don’t shop at Willey’s, don't put boats in the water, don't support the local community. We need property owners than can summer residents but new people aren't attracted to the area because there is limited access to technology- wireless and cell service which makes it very hard to do business while on the lake.”

Events:

- “Promote events to keep the summer and winter residents working together and sharing ideas.”
- “Provide more complete information in user-friendly formats on events and organizations around the lake; organize events every summer to bring people together: barbecue, pot-luck, auctions or sales to benefit some local causes using volunteers from the association to foster community spirit and get people to meet one another.”
- “An online message-board and classifieds to help promote local businesses and community events. Let's put the Willy's store bulletin board up on the web...”
- “...more speakers and support of the visual arts.”
- “Events that enable new people to the community to feel as great a sense of hospitality as possible from both the summer community and year around residents in a proactive sense.”
- “Renewal of - or raise awareness of 50- yr. tradition of walking around the lake, on the old trail through private lakefront properties.”
- “Maybe some (kid-friendly) charity bike rides or runs. The parade could be a lot better. More kid involvement on their own decorated bikes, not just riding and throwing

candy. Dogs, horses, goats, sheep, whatever can be safely led and carry a banner for their "farm." Everyone who participates in the parade should get a free ice cream cup (or bar) at the end of the line."

- "We need to teach sailing as well as swimming."
- "Find ways/ events to help local artisans, small businesses & farmers, etc. attract visitors to help support their struggles to make a year-long, sustainable living, therefore keeping the entire Greensboro environs the diverse, interesting & creative place we all love."

Bike Path:

- "Help to get a bike path that would be safe for young people."

Environmental Efforts:

- "Make an inventory of our native plants and geology. Better education on what is where, and how to ensure they are protected."
- "Support the Loon Recovery Project - Eric Hanson"
- "Limit motor boat engine size to 10 hp or less."
- "Support zoning. Support stronger gas powered motor boat regulation."
- "Work with the Select Board to prevent road and building construction runoff from creating deltas in the lake."
- "...exploration of moratorium on power boats on the lake."
- "...sustainability and promotion of "green" living. Also, pollution prevention regarding septic leakage into Caspian."
- "More information about the lake even at Willey's. So precious is this lake - not many of them around anymore."
- "Work with the state to control silt and sand washing into the lake."
- "We would very much like to see the goose population on Caspian Lake eliminated before the numbers increase significantly."
- "Silt from porter brook and highland lodge dike are destroying the lake bottom!! Help!!"
- "Take a census of the number of washing machines that are operated during the year in the lake drainage. (I'm serious--although the lake does not have any eutrophication issues, clothes washers are significant contributors to nitrogen pollution."

Social Services:

- "Explore the social services working families need. Working-class seniors too."

Civic Projects in Town:

- “Traffic flow in village center”
- “Enforcement of speed limits on the Lake Shore road. The road has become a speedway, but is populated by an increasing number of runners and many bicyclists of all ages. I fear there is an accident waiting to happen (hopefully I am wrong!).”
- “Pave lakeshore road”
- “Take down the ugly pine tree on the center green and put up a gazebo for folks to sit under and have a cool drink or lunch. One resident has offered a Christmas tree each year for the holiday season which can be easily decorated and removed after the holidays are over. Needs to be done.”
- “Encourage the opening of a cafe in the town.”
- “We need more shade trees (salt-tolerant like the hybrid Hackberry trees they are planting in Burlington). We need a handsome logo for the whole town (like Stowe has). We need to make some use of the land beside the lake that was given to the town for recreation purposes (on the far side of the Greensboro Brook outlet).”
- “The community doesn't need "improvement", just support in the areas that the association had already been supporting before 501(c)3's were added.”
- “Keep the town green attractive.”
- “Lets ask the select board, or the town. Lets do something which is great for the winter (helping groom cross country trails - getting the cross country races back to Highland Lodge in February?) There is a lot of talk about the green at Willey's - different trees, different structures. Lots of firm opinions. Maybe we can help address it and create a space there which will be prettier and more useful for the community - new tree/trees? Christmas/holiday decorations? Better signage?”
- “Village Welcome Sign, Village activity sign on the Village Green, Sidewalk improvement and beautification, white fence around the Village Green - traditional like Craftsbury.”
- “Work with town for larger scale town improvement than current scope such as library, garden, a few trees, etc.”

Become More Political:

- “Become more political -- attack the Town and Gown issue. Become more involved in tax and zoning issues. Call the Select board into account, have them report at meetings.”