



view from the

POINT

FROM THIS PLACE GO BUILD A BETTER WORLD...

November 2008

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Strategic Planning for GPC's Future

GPC has undertaken an ambitious project this past year, and we have deemed it a rousing success. A Strategic Planning Committee was appointed last October, and has completed a new 3 year plan that lays out future directions and action steps. This was adopted by the Board last month, and will guide us into the future. The following is the basis on which our core strategies have been built:

Our Mission

Through the beauty of our natural setting and inclusive hospitality, Geneva Point Center provides a place to rejuvenate, nurture relationships and prepare to build a better world.

Our Core Values

We offer hospitality that is welcoming and inclusive.

We provide our guests with the setting and resources for relaxation, fun, re-creation, learning, spiritual refreshment and reflection.

We commit ourselves to responsible stewardship of our environment.

We honor our ecumenical Christian heritage and our calling to serve.

Those We Serve

We serve all people who seek renewal of spirit, body, and mind and who come as individuals, families, faith communities and organizations.

Tagline

From this place go build a better world.

Five Core Strategies were developed to support this mission, each with specific action steps and a time frame for completion. Here is what we have chosen as our focus for the next 3 years.

CORE STRATEGY #1:

Develop a new "Keepers of the Inn" culture within GPC.

CORE STRATEGY #2:

Put in place the staff, board and volunteer leadership necessary to fulfill our mission.

CORE STRATEGY #3:

Identify and address key improvements to facilities, including deferred and ongoing maintenance, restoration of our historic buildings and future needs.

CORE STRATEGY #4:

Establish sound and sustainable practices for financial management.

CORE STRATEGY #5:

Increase GPC's financial resources to provide for the future.

Many thanks for all the hard work of this group, and to Bob MacArthur for guiding us through this process.



Annual Meeting

On October 25, many of us gathered to share in the Annual Meeting of GPC. We began with WOW cards, a chance for people to write down one thing that was a WOW for today, and another that they would love to see a year from now. The results were amazing and a reminder of what is so special for us about GPC. The Today WOWS included such things as:

Hearing the multigenerational stories of people who have been coming here. This is far more than a physical place – it is a place in hearts and memories

A room that was warm and was set up and ready for me upon arrival

Looking across the lake at the hills with mist circling the tops!

This place is too good to pass by!

Seeing so many people so actively engaged in their respective enterprises (leadership group, quilters, staff, board, spouses, people here for meeting), especially so late in the season

Next year, people would say WOW if:

Every bed were filled on the 90th anniversary weekend celebration!

Have a marketing presence (website, brochure, whatever) that I can use to refer people to who have no idea what GPC is. So often I tell people about GPC and encourage them to come, yet the next step is not there.

I would love to see the Inn “spruced” up to be a safe, attractive, updated building. Jesus would be happy to see “no room at the Inn” because the place was at full capacity

Having good financial practices that include “care and feeding” of donors and visitors who are not yet donors

To see the completed cluster of new staff housing with a marshmallow roast at sunset campfire and songs

The first \$1 million in endowment

That is just a sampling of the wonderful responses. Each person was invited to share their name and how long or in what context they had been coming to GPC. In the room we had centuries of connection to this special place. Additionally we offered thanks to all our wonderful Volunteers, our Staff, and our Board, especially those concluding their service, Bob Curry, Norman Larson, Chuck Bates, Jean Clark, and Tom Bechtel.

Our meeting offered a chance to update everyone on the recent activities, as well as the good news that at the end of the last fiscal year, March 31, 2008, we had a surplus. This year has included many big projects, which you can read about elsewhere. We also have reinstated the practice of having an Annual Report. We hope that this will soon be posted on the web site, and is also available by a request to the office.

The Board took the unusual step of asking that we have this next year as a time to continue our transition by focusing on board development and governance issues. So with the exception of a new treasurer, Lisa Garcia, we are not filling any openings on the board, and will give ourselves time to look at how board members are chosen, how we make decisions about leadership, and many other relevant needs.

The meeting was a great celebration of who we are, and sets us on good footing as we move in to the future. Please plan to join us next year on October 3 for the Annual Meeting and a celebration of our 90th Anniversary.

As President of the Board, I have the joy of hearing stories about how important GPC is to so many, and I am delighted for all the ways that we are each stepping forward to strengthen this place for the future. Thank you so much for all you do.

Faithfully,
Robin Thomas Soller



Staff House Community

After the Staff House Demolition event on September 27, both staff and volunteers have been busy preparing the site for the construction of the staff cabin community to be built on the same site.

Our new staff cabin community is a cluster of six, tight-knit cabins facing each other around a landscaped gathering area. Capable of housing a total of 48 people, these buildings will be constructed in a fashion that sustains Geneva Point's sense of staff community and demonstrates our commitment to the environment. The cabins will be built to last at least as long as the Staff House they replaced and will no doubt become as significant to those who will spend their summers in them.

Under the guidance of Greg Widman and David Barnard, a number of cost-saving and green-building options are being implemented in the construction of these cabins. One of the most important considerations in green building design is planning for a building with a long lifespan. Each year that a building remains in use increases the cost effectiveness of the time, energy and dollars spent in its construction. To this end, we've chosen to construct each of the staff cabins on a slab foundation instead of concrete piers, to side them with concrete siding and to cover them with metal roofs.

In addition, each of the cabins will feature on-demand water heaters which heat water as it is needed instead of storing heated water to be used at a later time. Even the new septic design uses only one-third the space needed to construct a traditional septic system. Our most visible, and perhaps thrilling, part of this project will be the purchase of an array of photovoltaic solar panels to generate electricity for the cabin community. One of the beauties of this design will be

the fact that even when the buildings are closed down, as the sun shines we will be making electricity which we can then sell back to the New Hampshire Electric Coop, building up electricity credits for our summer season when our electricity usage is much higher.

To date, the water and electricity conduits have been brought to the cabin sites underground, ready for pouring the "monolithic slabs" on which the cabins will sit. The newly designed septic system is being put in place. The staff hopes to have volunteer teams working on construction during the winter and spring, when conditions permit. Please contact David Barnard at (603)253-4366 if you want to be part of the team.

Our Financial Development Committee is grateful to all the members of the Board of Directors and a number of "angels" who have stepped up the challenge of funding this project in time for the 2009 season.

We are still looking for some more "angels" who can help us with gifts large and small! Our end-of-the-year "Friends of Winni" appeal will help fund the on-going maintenance of existing facilities, but the over-and-above appeal is now to raise an additional \$100,000 for those last two cabins. Individual gifts or combining gifts with others in the amount of \$49,000 will create "naming opportunities" and we invite your creativity and generosity in helping us achieve this incredible goal. With our S.T.A.F.F. cabin initiative we are STARTING to TAKE ACTION FOR the FUTURE and we invite your participation!

(With thanks to contributions from Dick Weyrick, Claes Thelemarck, and Dave Williams for portions of this article)



Search/Transition Process

Nearly a year ago, Jess Schload announced his resignation, in order to take a new position in a warmer climate. We then hired an interim, John Chilton, to offer a fresh perspective of Geneva Point from someone who was not tied by the traditions and patterns of the past. John offered us many helpful ideas on how we might make some healthy changes for the future, and assisted in the Strategic Planning Process. John has now moved on to new challenges and we thank him for his contributions to our future.

We are confident that, with the strategic plan completed, Geneva Point will attract an executive director with the skills and vision to keep Geneva Point financially sound while attracting future generations to this beloved place. Advertising for this superhuman, multitalented person is underway thanks to the efforts of Norman Larson and the Search Committee. If you know of someone who is a perfect fit for us, please have that person contact searchcommittee@genevapoint.org for a copy of the job

description. Resumes may be sent to Search Committee at Geneva Point, or by e mail to the above address. The hope is to have the new Executive Director hired by early 2009.

In addition to the efforts of the staff and board, we have been blessed this year with many, many wonderful volunteers, and would welcome others to come for a day or a weekend, or longer, to help invest in our future. As always, there is much that needs to be done, yet the enthusiasm continues to grow, and the future is promising. If you or your group can volunteer, please contact David Barnard at 603-253-4366 or david@genevapoint.org. It will take all of us working, praying, supporting and caring together to help strengthen GPC.

We thank you for your continued prayers, visits, efforts and financial support. With them we continue to make Geneva Point a special place for many years to come.

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