

## **Town of Horicon Historical Society - October 23, 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes**

The Town of Horicon Historical Society October 23, 2023 Monthly Meeting was held at the Horicon Community Center and was called to order by President Sylvia Smith at 6:00 pm. Board members present were Barbara LaFond, Kathy Hill, Diane Loika and Trustee Mary Ann Hill and John Caruso (via Zoom). Other members present were Janet Early, Jim Ventura, Town Supervisor Mike Geraci, Bob Smith, Jacob Smith, Jaden Smith, Mary Jo and Bill Hebert.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the September 11 monthly meeting were provided to everyone by email prior to the meeting. Thank you to Janet Early for taking and distributing the minutes from September. Barbara LaFond motioned to accept the minutes and Diane Loika seconded. The motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** A copy of the treasurer's report for the period of September 1 through September 30, 2023, was uploaded and presented by Sylvia Smith. Kathy Hill motioned, and Mary Ann Hill seconded to accept that the Treasurer's report was received, and the motion carried. Mary Geraci submitted her letter of resignation due to medical reasons. Barbara LaFond motioned to accept her resignation with regrets and Mary Ann Hill seconded and the motion was passed. Kathy Hill motioned that Diane Loika be appointed to fill the treasurer's position through 12/31/23 and Mary Ann Hill seconded and the motion was passed. Diane Loika motioned that her board seat as Trustee be filled by Janet Early and Kathy Hill seconded and the motion was passed.

**Notices received:** North Warren Chamber of Commerce sent a notice of renewal to the Society's membership. Barbara LaFond motioned that the \$60 membership fee be paid. Mary Ann Hill seconded and the motion carried. North Warren EMS sent a notice requesting a donation. Mary Ann Hill motioned a \$200 donation be made and Barbara LaFond seconded and the motion carried.

**Historical Society President's Report:** Sylvia Smith reminded everyone that December elections for board and trustees were ahead and that Barbara LaFond, VP would contact Krista Wood at the Town of Horicon to advertise the annual meeting including election of officers. The nominating committee of Barbara LaFond, Mike Geraci and Mary Ann Hill will meet prior to the November meeting. Nominations for positions will be accepted prior to and during the November meeting so that voting ballots may be created.

Notice of disbandment of the Horicon Senior Citizens Group and a donation of pictures and information was received. Mary Ann Hill motioned to accept this donation and Barbara LaFond seconded. The motion carried. Plans to compile these Senior Citizens Group documents will be included in the Winter Projects for the Society, which will sort files and photos from the Museum Archives for 2 to 3 days/month at the Horicon Community Center.

Closure of the museums was undertaken by Mary Ann Hill in Adirondack and Janet Early, Jim Ventura, Sylvia Smith, Robert Smith and Diane Loika in Horicon.

A Newsletter with request for annual dues was discussed. Barbara LaFond motioned that the recent article submitted to the Brant Lake Association Brantlaker be used for the newsletter with updates and inclusion of the renewal envelope. Kathy Hill seconded. The motion was carried. Kathy Hill motioned that this work be done with paid assistance from Margaret Holmes of Mather Media, Diane Loika seconded and the motion was carried. Plans to create a mailer before Thanksgiving were made and Sylvia Smith will revise and provide to Margaret next week.

**Town Supervisor's Report:** Supervisor Mike Geraci thanked the Society volunteers for their work over the Summer and noted that images of the facilities are a great resource for the Town of Horicon including the opening of Heintzelman Library for each Food Truck Friday. Supervisor Geraci also thanked Society President Sylvia Smith for accepting an appointment to fill a vacancy on the Town Board through December 2023.

**Historian's Report:** Colleen Murtagh had a busy month and submitted her written report, which was read by Sylvia Smith. Matt Simpson and his assistant visited during September. Mary Paladin, local author, donated several copies of her book, "The Adirondacks that are the Other Half of Me", to the library collection. Inquiries were received and Information provided concerning: Civil War enlistees, Camps Gibbons and Red Wing. Met with Janet Early regarding submission of articles/photos to website plus the entire collection of artifacts previously photographed from the Adirondack Annex (see below). Discussions are in the works for 2 lectures in Adirondack and Brant Lake in summer 2024.

**Website Committee:** Janet Early reported that the website has had approximately 100 visitors to date with the visitors scrolling through many of the pages during their visits. Website extensions are being planned to accommodate the Museum Collections and Town History material (see Historian Report). Also, a page for the Adirondack Historical Alliance, providing links to other area historical societies and museums, is being planned.

**Other:** The Adirondack Historical Alliance, a loose consortium of area historical societies in North Warren and Essex counties, is meeting on Saturday, October 28 in Chestertown, at the Museum in the Chestertown Town Hall, at 10AM, if anyone would like to attend Sylvia Smith asked museum volunteers to share any comments they had from museum visitors. Stories, quips and quotes from the recent North Warren Central School 4th grade visit and tour were shared. 35 students plus teachers joined volunteers for a fun day and each student was presented a certificate for their participation. It is planned that stories, pictures and drawings will be sent back for publishing on the website.

**Snippet:** A framed photo showing whitetail bucks shot by the Hague Hunting Club in Brant Lake was viewed. Horicon Town Court Books were also viewed followed by a motion from Barbara LaFond and seconded by Diane Loika that these books be accepted as a donation. Comments from floor: President Sylvia Smith opened the meeting for comments from the floor: Janet Early, Mary Jo Hebert, Mary Ann Hill and Diane Loika provided statements regarding the open hours of the museums in 2023. Possible changes to the Museums' hours/days and special programs to

be featured to attract visitors) were brought up. Be prepared to have more discussion on these topics in the November meeting. This info will become a part of the Winter workshops taking place soon to set 2024 hours of opening and programming in Horicon and Adirondack.

**Adjournment:** Diane Loika moved and Mary Ann Hill seconded the motion to adjourn and the motion carried.

**Next meeting:** Monday, November 13, Horicon Town Hall in Brant Lake, 6 pm. A Zoom option will be attempted for members that can't attend in person. A notice will be sent out before the meeting with connection information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Hill, Secretary