

Town of Horicon Historical Society – December 11, 2023, Monthly Meeting Minutes

Prior to the annual meeting, members joined to celebrate the completion of a successful museum year and to share pizza and dessert at 5:30 pm.

The Town of Horicon Historical Society December 11, 2023, ANNUAL 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 Kathy Hill, Diane Loika, Janet Early, Mary Ann Hill, and Colleen Murtagh. Other members present were Horicon Supervisor Mike Geraci, Jim Ventura, Bob Smith, Jacob Smith, Jaden Smith, Dan Smith, and Barbara Blum.

Minutes: Minutes from the November 13, 2023 monthly meeting were provided to everyone by email prior to the meeting. Thank you to Janet Early for distributing the minutes via email and posting the minutes to the new website.

To view our new web site, go to www.horiconhistory.com and be sure to contact us from your email so that you receive updates on minutes, meetings, events, and happenings ahead.

Mary Ann Hill motioned to accept the minutes and Diane Loika seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A copy of the treasurer's report for the Period of November 1 through November 30, 2023 was presented by Diane Loika. Kathy Hill motioned, and Mary Ann Hill seconded to accept that the Treasurer's report was received, and the motion carried.

Town Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Mike Geraci thanked the Society volunteers on behalf of the Horicon Town Board for a successful year of displaying the history of the town. He stated his support for a joint effort between the boards to move forward on obtaining estimates to paint the 1881 Museum Annex exterior in Adirondack. He announced that future grant acknowledgements are looking incredibly positive and that major renovations should be getting underway in 2024.

Notices received: A handwritten thank you note was received from the North Warren Emergency squad for the HHS donation.

Historical Society President's Report:

CALLING ALL HISTORY BUFFS - Sylvia Smith outlined Winter Workshops that have been conducted thus far: Newsletter production and mailing as well as review of museum documents and creation of physical files in the cabinets at the Horicon Museum. Future workshops are planned for January 8th and January 22nd followed by February 5th and February 26th. Each workshop will be held at the Horicon Community Center from 1 pm to 3 pm. Everyone is welcome. The Adirondack Historical Alliance is seeking information from HHS for the end of January 2024 meeting.

Old Business – With the reprioritization of painting the 1881 Museum Annex, Kathy Hill will recontact local painters to seek interest in submission of bids.

New Business – The project to replace the carriage house entry door in Horicon has been completed and proof of completion will be submitted by Kathy Hill to the CFGMR application platform prior to the deadline.

St Nicolas Icon – Janet Early and Town Historian Colleen Murtagh provided information on research conducted about this artifact. Mary Ann Hill motioned that the society: contact the Icon Museum and Study Center in Clinton MA. to schedule an appointment for the Icon to be viewed and that travel expenses for attendees be reimbursed. Diane Loika seconded and the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Historian's Report: Colleen Murtagh is working on website content and has been researching a genealogy of the Smith family with roots reaching back to the Mayflower. Colleen supported a suggestion made during the Winter Workshops to display the Pfleuderer art collection as a new exhibit in the Horicon Museum in 2024.

Website committee: Janet Early reported that the website has a new section for artifacts, historical documents, and photos. The Adirondack Historical Alliance contact information is now listed along with pointers to other local societies.

Sunshine committee: Barbara Blum advised she had sent a note of condolence to the Joann Lewis family. Sylvia Smith added that Joann Lewis was an incredibly supportive volunteer to not only our HHS but many other associations as well. Fond memories of Joann's ability to sell tickets for any event were shared and many acknowledged that she would be missed.

Nominating committee/annual elections: Vice President and nominating committee chair, Barbara LaFond, was unable to attend the annual meeting. Diane Loika distributed the ballots to the membership. Diane first called for any additional nominations from the members in good standing. When no nominations for the seat of President having been received, Diane explained to the membership that for existing president Sylvia Smith to run for President, the current 2-year term limit must be amended/extended. Kathy Hill motioned to amend the by-laws to extend the term of current President, Sylvia Smith for one year through December 2024. Diane Loika seconded and the motion carried. Diane then passed out the ballots to members in good standing for the board seats of President – Sylvia Smith running unopposed, Vice President – Janet Early running unopposed, Treasurer – Diane Loika running unopposed and trustee to be filled by a vote for one (1) of three (3) nominations – Barbara LaFond, Barbara Blum, and Camille Dougan.

Votes were tallied with the following results: thirteen (13) total votes received; new board is as follows:

President - Sylvia Smith - 13 votes

Vice President - Janet Early - 13 votes

Treasurer - Diane Loika - 13 votes

Trustee – Barbara LaFond 8 votes - successful

Barbara Blum 4 votes, Camille Dougan 1 vote

Snippet: The newly accessed paintings by Horicon artist Amelia Pfleuderer were donated by Mary Ann Weighofer of Plattsburgh. Three florals were on display at this meeting on their way to becoming a permanent part of the HHS collection.

President Sylvia Smith opened the meeting for comments from the floor:

Kathy Hill suggested that a budget be created for review at the March meeting. Budget committee members Diane Loika, Kathy Hill and Barbara LaFond will meet.

Mary Ann Hill suggested that consideration be given to siding the 1881 Museum Annex and Kathy Hill advised she would also contact siding contractors to seek interest in proposing.

Janet Early reminded that we need to set the 2024 museums' opening information, the dates for Town Historian Colleen Murtagh's 2024 lecture series and Barbara Blum's program committee event, so that it can get published on the HHS website and the Adirondack Historical Alliance common calendar.

Adjournment: Diane Loika moved and Mary Ann Hill seconded the motion to adjourn and the motion carried. There will be no meetings held during January and February with Winter Workshops taking place twice each month. Next meeting, March 11th, Horicon Historical Society Museum in Brant Lake, 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Hill, Secretary