

Town of Horicon Historical Society – August 12, 2024, Monthly Meeting Minutes

The Town of Horicon Historical Society August 12, 2024, 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 Kathy Hill, Diane Loika, Mary Ann Hill, Janet Early and John Caruso. Other members present were Jim Ventura, Barbara Blum, Camille Dougan, Robert Smith, Supervisor Mike Geraci and Mary Jo Hebert.

Minutes: Minutes from the July 8, 2024 monthly meeting were provided to everyone by email prior to the meeting and hard copies were available at this meeting. Mary Ann Hill motioned to accept the minutes as received and John Caruso seconded that the July minutes be received and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A copy of the treasurer's report for the Period of July 1, 2024 through July 30, 2024 was presented by Diane Loika. John Caruso motioned and Kathy Hill seconded to accept that the Treasurer's report as received, and the motion carried.

Mail: The following mail was received along with miscellaneous advertising pieces:

- Check received from successful grant application to CFGMR.
- Thank you notes received from North Warren graduating seniors Zach Warner and Abby Fritz who received the scholarships from HHS.
- Town of Chester Historical Society – schedule of events mailer.
- Chestertown Rotary – T-shirt sponsorship opportunity. Kathy Hill motioned and Diane Loika seconded not to pursue this sponsorship and the motion carried.
- Warren County Historical Society – PAST TIMES newsletter – it was noted that our HHS membership in the above Society and the Lake George Chamber of Commerce are generating emails advertising our event schedule.

HHS Events: The list of HHS events for the next few months is:

- "Early Days in Adirondack through the Eyes of a Local Photographer", Wednesday, August 14, 6 to 7PM, Horicon Community Center, a talk with photos by Colleen Murtagh.
- "The Bustling Days of Brant Lake", Thursday, August 22, 6 to 7PM, Horicon Community Center, a talk with photos by Colleen Murtagh. Postponed due to the July storm.
- "History of the Adirondack Fire Towers", by author Marty Podskoch, October 1, 6 to 7PM, Horicon Community Center; co-sponsored with Horicon Library Trustees

Town Supervisor's Report: The watering tub is going to remain at its current location on Watering Tub Road and that the HHS offer to install a plaque memorializing the site was accepted.

The results of the lead paint survey conducted at the Adirondack Museum Annex have been received confirming the existence of lead paint, but not the existence of asbestos. Cedarwood Engineering will assist the Town of Horicon in writing and seeking painting contract bids.

An engineering firm has been engaged by the Town of Horicon to assess the condition of the slate roof and the stonework on the Heintzelman Library and the cost of this study will be funded in part by a successful CFGMR grant.

Two monuments at the Heintzelman Library are in need of refurbishment and cost options are being explored. Mary Ann Hill suggested that possibly plaques could be installed rather than replacing the monuments. The Pomeroy Foundation may be a resource for these plaques as well as the watering tub plaque.

Supervisor Geraci sought opinions from the HHS members on whether the Horicon Senior Citizens group should be reinstated, but rather than form a separate organization, combine with the Chestertown Senior Citizens group, creating the Chestertown/Horicon Senior Citizens. The Town of Horicon would jointly fund with the Town of Chestertown. HHS members voiced support for this and Supervisor Geraci advised he would recommend Town of Horicon funding to support this.

Supervisor Geraci reminded members that during the next Horicon Town Board Meeting on August 15 there will be discussion about increasing the sales tax percentage from 7% to 8% and that there is a workshop on Wednesday, August 14, that can be viewed on-line where Warren County has put together a very informative session on this topic.

Town of Horicon Historian's Report: Historian Colleen Murtagh was unable to attend this meeting. She provided Vice President Janet Early with an update on what is happening: met with Sandra and Bill Felthousen, Brant Lake residents. Bill and his parents stayed at the Peblow Hotel for many years and shared his memories of the Hotel and summer life at Brant Lake during the summers in the 1940's and 1950's. Colleen continues preparations for two upcoming presentations. She has also staffed the Heintzelman Library during Food Truck Fridays and the Brant Lake Canoe Race.

HHS President's Report: President Sylvia Smith thanked the HHS team for their involvement in what is turning out to be the Society's busiest Summer to date. From successfully applying for grant money to hosting new events that can be repeated in future years and moving forward to inspiring new interest in everything HHS via website and Facebook. What a team of members and volunteers – Thank you!

New donations offered - Christine Hayes continues to provide great historical photographs for HHS use and we appreciate her. Barbara French provided a photo of the Watering Tub that her father Albert Monroe repaired in the 1990's. A donation of an early Point O Pines wooden clothes hangar and Palisades Hotel photos and memorabilia to be copied was presented by Janet Early and were donated by the Bruens Family. Motion to accept these donations made by John Caruso and seconded by Mary Ann Hill and the motion carried.

Very successful past events such as the Brant Lake Association Founder's Day, chaired by John Caruso and the Music of Jimmy Vanheusen as narrated by Lawrence Meltzer were very successful and widely enjoyed. Attendance at these events and weekly Museums attendance since the July HHS meeting have numbered over 200. A list of upcoming events was provided and is attached. The next HHS article for the Brant Laker is due Oct 15, 2024.

Old Business: CFGMR successful grant funds will now become a committee function to purchase the items applied for. Kathy Hill will contact Gaylor Archival Supplies to establish our account information and provide to Mary Ann Hill the grant supporting documents. A volunteer was requested to attend the CFGMR event on August 24 where the grant recipients will be recognized.

Site of the watering tub plaque – To move this project forward pictures and information are being collected and the Pomeroy Foundation will be researched as a possible procurement option and Bernie McCan, President of the Chestertown HS will be contacted for other possible options.

President Sylvia Smith nominated HHS member, Jim Ventura to be on the Town of Horicon Comprehensive Planning Committee and he has accepted this position.

School visit - Dates for the September 2024 North Warren Central School 4th grade class visit are being reviewed. Long time partner and NWCS teacher, Mrs. Cooper will be contacted once school reopens to firm up this date. A possible program/presentation is being explored by Mary Ann Hill and Barbara Blum to create an interactive quilt piecing game and to teach about how clothing was laundered 100 years ago for the class visit.

Building Improvements – Following the report of lead paint found at the ADK Museum Annex, bids will be sought and there is possible funding assistance ahead for this project.

New Business:

Food Truck Fridays – The following members are scheduled to staff the HHS table on FTF:

8/16/24 – Diane Loika and Barbara LaFond

8/23/24 – Jim Ventura and Janet Early

8/30/24 – Diane Loika and Barbara LaFond

Sunshine Committee: Barbara Blum reported that she had sent a thank you card to Lawrence Meltzer and sympathy cards to Christine Hayes, the family of former HHS secretary Pat Tunney and Mary Lou Palmer.

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

John Caruso would like to have a petty cash account reopened Kathy motioned that a Petty Cash account be opened with \$200 in funds and to be replenishable as needed with proceeds to be held by the Treasurer for use when receipts are presented and a petty cash form completed and John Caruso seconded and the motion carried.

Barbara Blum reported that she is working on events for 2025 to include the local Garwood Boat Company owned by the Turcotte family and Camille Dougan will assist with this event program. A repeat of the Jimmy Van Heusen Musical program and the BLA Founders Day program are planned. A Winter Program on bats and ticks was also discussed. Dates will be chosen so that the dates can be published in the Brant Laker Winter edition.

John Caruso suggested a September gathering to thank volunteers for a great 2024. Discussion followed as to a possible shared meal. John, Camille Dougan and Barbara Blum will work to bring options together to the next monthly meeting in September.

Adjournment: Janet Early motioned and Diane Loika seconded the motion to adjourn and the motion carried. Next meeting, September 9 will be held at Town of Horicon Community Center, 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Hill, Secretary

HHS website - www.horiconhistory.com. Send us your email to be put on our mailing list for announcements.

The 2024 Summer museum schedule continues thru Sept 28 as follows:

Thursdays - 11 to 3 Brant Lake

Fridays - 11 to 3 Adirondack and 5 pm at the Food Truck Friday with displays

Saturdays - 11 to 3 Brant Lake and Adirondack

Volunteers are needed:

-for all special events and Food Truck Fridays

-as docents at each location during the 2024 Season Schedule

Prior experience is not necessary and training will be provided.

Come, join the fun and be a part of making new history!