

Town of Horicon Historical Society (HHS) – September 9, 2024, Monthly Meeting Minutes

The Town of Horicon Historical Society September 9, 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, Barb LaFond and John Caruso. Other members present were Jim Ventura, Jacob Smith, and Jaden Smith.

Minutes: Minutes from the August 12, 2024 monthly meeting were provided to everyone by email prior to the meeting; hard copies were available at this meeting. John Caruso motioned to accept the minutes as received and Barb LaFond seconded, and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A copy of the treasurer's report for the period of August 1, 2024 through August 31, 2024 was presented by Diane Loika. Kathy Hill motioned and Mary Ann Hill seconded to accept that the Treasurer's report as received, and the motion carried.

Mail: Copies of upcoming events of Adirondack Historical Alliance members were shared.

Town Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Geraci was not able to attend the meeting, President Sylvia Smith provided his notes as follows:

- A tankless water heater has been installed in the Adirondack Museum Annex by BPI and a "how to" for winterization will follow to Town of Horicon employees.
- Cedarwood Engineering continues to assist the Town of Horicon to seek additional painting quotes for the Adirondack Museum Annex. One quote has been received which did not include lead abatement.
- Kathy Davis from the Senior Citizens Group in Chestertown has advised that the Senior Board does not wish to consider renaming the group at this time.
- Three quotes have been obtained for the addition of 4 units to heat and cool the Horicon Museum. Supervisor Geraci asked the Historical Society to consider reallocating \$10,000 of the funds currently set aside for the Adirondack Museum Annex exterior paint project for this expense, as the painting project will be moved ahead in time. After board discussion, Barb LaFond made a resolution to reallocate \$10,000 towards the purchase of heating/cooling units at the Horicon Museum Main House (3) and Carriage House (1) of the \$25,650 currently allocated for the Horicon Museum Annex exterior painting, John Caruso seconded resolution, and the resolution passed.

Town of Horicon Historian's Report: Historian Colleen Murtagh was unable to attend this meeting, and her report will be posted at a later date.

Town of Horicon Comprehensive Plan: Committee Member Jim Ventura reported on the first meeting of this Plan Committee. The goal of the Comprehensive Plan Committee is to develop a strategic plan for the Town. The last Comprehensive Plan was completed in 2010. The first step is to survey Horicon residents and visitors to understand their views and issues in the Town. A survey is available via a web link (<https://sites.google.com/view/horiconcomprehensiveplan/home>) for completion. A hardcopy

survey is available at the Town Library and the Town Hall. The survey will remain open until October 20, 2024. Janet Early made a resolution and John Caruso seconded that: The Horicon Historical Society (HHS) send a letter to its members, encouraging them to submit this survey. The resolution passed. Jim Ventura and Janet Early will donate the cost of the letter printing and postage for this mailing. Diane Loika will assist by printing the mailing labels and HHS will provide envelopes. A link to the survey will be added to the HHS website/Facebook.

HHS President's Report: President Sylvia Smith reported on August HHS events 2024:

- At Food Truck Friday, the HHS table, located next to the BLA table, was an even greater success than in past years. Each Friday, attendees would stop to visit, share stories, and view the many photo books newly created this year and available for viewing. Approximately 17 new memberships, much interest and new visitors to the museums were generated. Thank you to all who volunteered in this effort. Discussion headed by John Caruso followed with plans for 2025.
- Best Museum Season EVER! 2024 has seen a large increase in museum traffic with 190 visitors at both locations, just since our August meeting. Due in large part to the Food Truck Friday HHS table and our schedule of special events, including two fabulous presentations by Horicon Historian Colleen Murtagh which were very well attended.

Upcoming events:

- September 18th – Appreciation Dinner – to be held at the Sunset Mountain Lodge in Brant Lake and will be catered by Teri and Greg Cole. Teri and Greg have asked to trade the catering of this event for two (2) lifetime HHS memberships. Barb LaFond made a resolution to provide lifetime memberships to Teri and Greg Cole, Janet Early seconded and the resolution passed. A second resolution was made by Mary Ann Hill and seconded by Kathy Hill, to appropriate up to \$400 HHS funds, for any additional costs of the event and the resolution carried. Discussion followed about table set ups by individual HHS members the day before the event. Music will be donated by lifetime member, Andrew Smith.
- September 19 – Two classes from the North Warren Central School, totaling 32 students will attend the Horicon Museum for a tour from 9:30 to 1:30, complete with a vintage washing machine station and an interactive quilt piecing game. Students will be escorted by 2 teachers and 2 aids. The students will bring a bag lunch. The Historical Society will provide cookies and water. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 8:30 to get set up. Certificates of participation, signed by HHS members will be presented and students will be encouraged to provide written stories of their visits. This is an annual event, spearheaded by NWCS teacher Mrs. Stacy Cooper.
- October 1 – Author, Marty Podscotch, will conduct a presentation on his book, Adirondack Fire Towers at the Horicon Community Center from 6 to 7 pm. Mr. Podscotch authored the Adirondack 102 Club book, which kicked off its search for Adirondack sites at an HHS meeting 10 years ago. HHS member, Barbara Blum, was the second participant to complete documentation of all 102 locations listed in the book.

Old Business:

CFGMR successful grant funds – Sylvia Smith and Mary Ann Hill will complete the ordering process and Kathy Hill will submit the expense records to the CFGMR prior to December 31st 2024 to complete this grant.

Watering Tub Plaque – Jim Ventura will chair this committee to document the history of the watering tub and propose wording for a plaque.

New Business:

John Caruso and Sylvia Smith advised that 4 boats, formerly provided to guests at the Palisades Hotel, have been offered as a possible donation. Pictures were viewed and discussion ensued. It was decided to accept these donated boats in the future, contingent on their condition and the ability to get them moved to the Horicon Museum. Once this can be determined, a resolution to accept this donation will be finalized.

Mary Ann Hill made a resolution and Barb LaFond seconded, that copies made for visitors at the museums be done with a 25-cent charge if copies are being provided to a visitor's flash drive and a \$1 charge if copies on card stock from HHS inventory are provided to visitors. The resolution passed.

John Caruso made a resolution that a compact size refrigerator be purchased for the Horicon Museum, not to exceed \$125 and Mary Ann Hill seconded, the resolution passed. Diane Loika will purchase the refrigerator. Consideration for a second unit at the Adk Museum Annex will be reviewed in 2025.

Sunshine Committee: No report.

Comments from the floor:

Mary Ann Hill opened a further discussion about plans for the setting up of the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on September 18th.

Adjournment: Mary Ann Hill motioned, and John Caruso seconded, and the motion carried. Next meeting, tentatively scheduled for October 7th, not the second Tuesday of the month, and will be held at Town of Horicon Community Center, 6 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Hill, Secretary

The 2024 Fall Museum schedule continues through September 28.