

Town of Horicon Historical Society (HHS) – November 13, 2024, Monthly Meeting Minutes

The Town of Horicon Historical Society November 13, 2024 monthly meeting was held at the Horicon Community Center and was called to order by President, Sylvia Smith at 6:30 pm. Board members present were Kathy Hill, Diane Loika, Mary Ann Hill, Barb LaFond, Janet Early and John Caruso via Google Meets. Other members present were Jim Ventura, Bob Smith, Jacob Smith, Jaden Smith, Barb Blum, Supervisor Geraci and Wayne Butler.

Minutes: Minutes from the October 9, 2024 monthly meeting were provided to everyone by email prior to the meeting; hard copies were available at this meeting. Barb LaFond motioned to accept the minutes as received and Mary Ann Hill seconded, and the motion carried.

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

Mail: No mail was received.

Town Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Geraci requested that the HHS provide pictures to be loaned to the Town Hall and to be hung in the entry and hallways for visitors to view. Kathy Hill mentioned the photos on exhibit in the Chester Town Hall with copies available for purchase and suggested that this might be duplicated in Horicon as a revenue source for the HHS using the HHS printer.

Facilities reports:

- The vault at Brant Lake Elbow Cemetery has been renovated by Brian Johnson; pictures of the exterior were distributed.
- Chuck's Heating will be installing the heating units in the Horicon Museum between November 22, 2024 and November 24, 2024.
- Heintzelman Library – Eleven (11) new windows have been installed and stained, Vicki will be setting up a lighted Christmas tree and putting candles in the windows on 11/22/24. Cedarwood Engineering assessment indicated that a new slate roof and stonework is needed with projected cost in excess of \$100,000. The Town of Horicon is looking for financing in 2025.
- Adirondack Museum Annex – Painting contract bids are due to the Town of Horicon by the November 21, 2024 Town Board meeting and hope to be included in Spring 2025 projects.

Town of Horicon Historian's Report: Copy of report follows.

Sunshine Committee – Barb Blum advised nothing to report.

President's Report: Sylvia Smith reported that both Museums have been closed for the Winter. She thanked Mary Ann Hill who had closed the ADK Annex by herself and the

volunteers for their work in the Horicon Museum. Thank you also to Rob and Vicki from the Town of Horicon for their support in both locations. Kathy Hill, Secretary, has sent a thank you note to Joseph Burniche from BPI Mechanical Services, for his donated labor and materials to install the hot water heater in the ADK Annex. There is now a mini fridge in the Horicon Museum and thanks to Vicki for donating a second mini fridge for the ADK Annex.

Old Business:

By-laws – During the meeting a second reading was scheduled for By-law changes of term limits proposed at the October meeting. Sylvia Smith presented a review of current HHS By-laws which were last revised in 2022 following guidance from the Warren County Historical Society. To clarify By-laws that were discussed in the October meeting: all business conducted by the HHS board is to be voted on by the seated board and trustees with feedback prior to final vote from all members in good standing who are present. At the annual meeting all members in good standing who are present may vote on the slate of board members to be elected. Discussion ensued regarding elimination of term limits for current board members and it was clarified that there is already a provision in the By-laws for this. Janet Early motioned to rescind the passed motion from the October meeting, Mary Ann Hill seconded and the motion to rescind was passed. It was agreed that the By-Law Committee will review and recommend updates, as required, to all By-laws in 1Q2025.

Janet Early reported on the status of framing grants discussed at the October meeting. This funding can be applied for but will not be resolved in a timely matter for framing in Spring 2025. Janet will begin the grant process with a long-term plan and report back. Sylvia Smith proposed that we could apply to the CFGMR for framing in 2025.

Status of framed photograph donated by Elna Meader – the Dutchess County Historical Society has accepted the donated photograph of the Woronock House (located in Dutchess County) and it has been delivered to their Museum.

Janet Early reported that the Brant Lake Fishing Club book discussed at the October meeting was listed in the HHS Accession book as “on loan” from Corinne Bero for use in the 1987-88 museum year. Corinne passed in 1995. Her daughter, Mrs. Mary Gardner of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, was listed as her survivor in Corinne’s obituary. Sylvia Smith and Kathy Hill will make this contact to inquire on the status of this artifact and report back. Town Historian, Colleen Murtagh is currently copying the book and Diane Loika of HHS will scan copies to be stored.

Watering Tub Plaque Project – Committee Chair, Jim Ventura reported that he is currently focusing on the origin of the watering tub where several versions of the history are suggested. He is working with Colleen Murtagh to determine when Watering Tub Road was named. This could then be depicted on the plaque.

New Business:

The Town of Horicon has a new machine that the HHS can use to fold, stuff and pack mailings which will be very helpful in our production of newsletters and mailers. Barbara LaFond motioned that in anticipation of the next mailing that the HHS purchase 1000 #10 envelopes with return addresses and no postage, Mary Ann Hill seconded and the motion passed. Discussion followed as to when to produce and send the next newsletter with renewal solicitation and it was decided that this letter would be mailed out in January 2025.

A collection of Adirondack related historical books has been received. Mary Ann Hill motioned and Diane Loika seconded to accept these books and to store them at the ADK Museum Annex and the motion passed.

Winter workshops will be scheduled to start in January on a monthly basis.

Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan – Jim Ventura provided a handout of the results that have been tabulated. Once reviewed please provide any feedback or questions to Jim. The next meeting of the Survey Committee is in December. The HHS thanked Jim for his involvement which keeps us informed and Janet Early proposed that this information could be included in the next HHS renewal letter.

Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce renewal has been received. Membership is \$150/year and last year HHS was very pleased to hear our mention in their radio and other advertising. Mary Ann Hill motioned and John Caruso seconded and the motion passed.

Nominating Committee: Barbara LaFond and Mary Ann Hill will create the ballots and take care of the required public announcements for the annual meeting of the HHS and the election of officers to take place at our December monthly meeting. Members are asked to provide to Barbara LaFond nominations of members who would like to fill the vacant positions by December 1, 2024. All are reminded that nominations of members in good standing can be presented after personally speaking with the member. Vacancies are President, Secretary and the two trustee seats.

Monthly tidbit – Information about the Hamlet of Adirondack and it's origin as Millbrook NY with a timeline were presented by Sylvia Smith.

Janet Early presented a potential donation of memorabilia (soap bars, brochures and stationery) from the Palisades Hotel by Ingrid Bruens. Mary Ann Hill motioned, Diane Loika seconded and the motion passed to accept these items.

Comments from the floor:

Mary Ann Hill suggested the HHS purchase two pizzas and soda for a holiday celebration after the December meeting and that was agreed upon.

Adjournment: Kathy Hill motioned, and Barb LaFond seconded, and the motion carried. Next meeting, scheduled for Monday, December 9, will be held at Town of Horicon Community Center, 5:30PM (to allow for Holiday celebration).

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Hill, Secretary

Historian's Report to HHS November 12, 2024

- Identified photos and provided photos for Brant Laker for Dave Bourque.
- Continued research on Brant Lake Fishing Club/Sunset Mt. Lodge.
- Attended Horicon Comprehensive Plan Meeting as Historian.
- Met with Janet Early re: Watering Tub Road info.
- Met with Krista Wood researching road names, finding out that although the town maintains Watering Tub Road, it is a county road.
- Called Warren County DPW and received information from them. The first record they have was when they took over maintenance of the Watering Tub Road in 1948. It was called Watering Tub at the time, predating the 1950's photo we received.
- Researched deeds to Watering Tub property from 1912, finding no information regarding the spring or tub.
- Contacted Warren County Historian for suggestions of where to turn next in this research.
- Researched a request on the Parks and Handee (Handy) families and provided information to requester.
- Was offered an extensive genealogy of the Owens family and will follow up on this.
- The window frames at the Heintzelman are stained and beautiful!
- Continued filing and sorting of information collected over the summer.