

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

The Town of Horicon Historical Society October 9, 2024, monthly meeting was held at the Horicon Community Center and was called to order by Vice President, Janet Early at 6:00 pm. Board members present were Kathy Hill, Diane Loika, Mary Ann Hill, Barb LaFond and John Caruso. Other members present were Jim Ventura, Mary Jo Hebert, Bill Hebert, Camille Dougan, Barb Blum, Colleen Murtagh and Wayne Butler.

Minutes: Minutes from the September 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 September 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024 was presented by Diane Loika. Kathy Hill motioned and John Caruso seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as received, and the motion carried.

Mail: \$100 donation from L Meltzer, a thank you note was received from Mr. Wallace after the appreciation dinner and the Warrensburg Historical Society Newsletter were received.

Town Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Geraci congratulated the HHS on a great season and carried a thank you to us from the Horicon Town Board. He gave a report on Facilities:

- The Water heater in the ADK Museum Annex was installed.
- A second quote was received for the Adk Museum Annex exterior painting project. As this second quote exceeds \$20,000, a formal bid procedure must be entered and Cedarwood Engineering will assist in creating the specs and scope of work for this next step.
- General projects are continuing at the Brant Lake Museum.
- Heintzelman Library – The balance of the building work to include roof, stonework and foundation work has been estimated at \$64,000 and engineering assessment continues.
- The town is looking for grant opportunities and is considering bonding.
- Brant Lake Museum new heating project – after receiving three quotes, the work was awarded to Chuck's Heating and the project will take place in 2024.

Town of Horicon Historian's Report: Historian Colleen Murtagh reported that she is working on filing. The Heintzelman Library enjoyed over 170 attendees this season from 10 states as well as England, Australia and Mexico. Many complimentary comments were received regarding the renovations and new windows that have been installed. Colleen is assisting the HHS with information and pictures for the watering tub plaque project. Colleen attended the ADK Fire Tower presentation which was jointly sponsored by the Horicon Library Board of Directors and the HHS. Author, Marty Podskotch, has donated his research books from the fire tower project to both organizations. Colleen is creating content for a project on Library benefactor, Emily Heintzelman, and is considering a presentation next summer, sponsored by

the Horicon Library Board of Directors on this project. She has spoken with the family of Brandt Persons about possible donations and is working on a Smith family lineage request.

HHS President's Report: Vice President Janet Early presented the President's report on behalf of President, Sylvia Smith:

- North Warren teacher Ms. Cooper and her 4th grade class, 40 attendees, toured the Brant Lake Museum and were provided with a quilt piece making demonstration and a wringer washer demonstration. They brought their lunches and enjoyed a great day. 40 people were in attendance (30 children, 4 teachers and Museum tour guides).
- Thank you to John Caruso and all Volunteers for organizing the HHS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. It was catered at Sunset Mtn Lodge on Brant Lake with 30 people attending. A very nice evening with dinner and music donated by Andrew Smith was enjoyed and plans for repeating in 2025 were discussed.
- The ADK Fire Tower presentation by author Marty Podskotch and co-sponsored by the Horicon Library Board of Trustees was enjoyed by 40 people on October 1, 2024.
- Total museum attendees for 2024 was 564. Our biggest year ever!

Old Business:

Watering Tub Plaque Project – Committee Chair, Jim Ventura will meet with Town Historian Colleen Murtagh before the November HHS meeting.

Community Survey for Comprehensive Plan – Jim Ventura reported that 200 copies of the survey letter were mailed out on 9/20/24 to HHS members and responses are coming in via the web link.

Mike Raymond of Brant Lake donated 5 wooden boats to HHS. John Caruso with the assistance of Bob, Jaden and Jacob Smith were able to move 2 boats to the Brant Lake Museum Tool Shed and the other 3 are in barn storage for the winter. Based on our September meeting decision to accept these boats if their condition warranted: Janet Early motioned and Kathy Hill seconded that we now accept this donation with the conditions set forth by Mike Raymond in his letter and the motion carried. These boats were designed by Charlie Duell and built by Willis Kingsley and there is a similar boat in the collection of the Adirondack Experience Museum in Blue Mtn Lake. John Caruso plans to work on the renovation of these boats in 2025.

Diane Loika, Treasurer, reported that a small refrigerator was purchased for the Brant Lake Museum and that CFGMR grant monies have been used to purchase the items the HHS applied for and Kathy Hill has submitted the required follow up report on line. Kathy Hill presented documentation of this to Diane Loika, for filing.

New Business:

Barb Blum suggested that the Sunset Mtn Lodge be a topic for a historical program in 2025. A lecture could be given by Historian Colleen Murtagh and a tour provided of the Lodge. Historian Colleen Murtagh will look into this.

Elna Meader, donated a large frame with a picture of a historical building in Dutchess County. Janet Early motioned to accept the donation and has contacted the Dutchess Co Historical Society to see if the picture is of interest to them. Kathy Hill seconded and the motion carried.

Horicon Town Historian, Colleen Murtagh asked the board to check the accession books to see how a book from the Brant Lake Fishing Club was donated. John Francisco has requested HHS permission for him to see this book.

Proposal to amend the HHS by-laws: Janet Early motioned that the HHS By-Laws be updated to remove all term limit restrictions for serving as an officer or Trustee (motion included after the minutes). John Caruso seconded and the motion carried. It was noted that at this meeting, the reading of the new by-law will constitute the first of three required readings.

Further discussion regarding amendments to By-laws occurred and additional amendments to clarify who can vote at HHS meetings were tabled until Vice President Janet Early can investigate with members of the existing By-laws committee and present to the board any proposed updates to the by-laws at a future meeting.

Janet Early proposed that HHS investigate and submit a grant proposal for preservation and framing of three documents with estimates for this work provided by Riverside Gallery. These documents are a 1912 survey map of Abel Crook property by upper dam, a topographical map of Schroon Lake on loan from Mary Ann Hill and Stoddard 1889 ADK Wilderness Map, Kathy Hill seconded this proposal and the motion carried.

Museum close ups: ADK Museum Annex is nearly ready to close and Mary Ann Hill will finalize that. Volunteers are needed for the Brant Lake Museum close-up. Janet Early will send an email to members, please respond when you can assist.

Starting in November, monthly workshops will commence again this year at the Horicon Town Hall. Dates will be published and projects identified.

Sunshine Committee: Get well card was sent to President, Sylvia Smith. A thank you card will be sent to the Cote's who catered the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner this year.

Comments from the floor:

Mary Ann Hill wishes to replace two pictures at the ADK Museum Annex. Colleen Murtagh has ADK glass negatives of Johnson Family that can be copied. John Caruso advised that the Brant Lake Association will assist HHS to promote future events and museum schedules, dates tbd is acceptable to get the word out early. Barb LaFond opened a discussion about how we could

publicize this information to other societies. John Caruso, Jim Ventura and Janet Early suggested making audio and video recordings of future presentations.

Adjournment: Kathy Hill motioned, and Barb LaFond seconded, and the motion carried.

NOTE: Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13th, not the second Monday of the month, due to Veteran's Day Holiday. It will be held at Town of Horicon Community Center, 6 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Hill, Secretary

By-Laws Motion

Janet Early proposed that the By-laws be updated to remove all term limit restrictions for serving as an Officer or Trustee.

Specifically, I propose the following sub-Articles be amended in the By-laws:

- Article VI (Officers and Trustees), Section #2. Currently, this section reads: "A Board Member cannot serve more than two consecutive two year terms. If a Board Member leaves before the term is finished, a replacement would be appointed by the Board of Directors to cover the remainder of the current year." I propose that the first sentence ("A Board Member cannot serve more than two consecutive two year terms.") be removed. Sub-Article #2 would then read: "If a Board Member leaves before the term is finished, a replacement would be appointed by the Board of Directors to cover the remainder of the current year."
- Article VII (Election of Officers and Trustees), Section #3. Currently, this section reads: "Those officers and trustees who have served for two consecutive terms (4 years), shall not be nominated to the same office unless there has been a one year lapse since the end of their second term. If necessary, these terms may be extended by majority vote at the Annual Meeting." I propose that Section #3 be deleted from the By-Laws, and that Section #4 and #5 be renumbered to Section #3 and #4 respectively.