

## **Town of Horicon Historical Society (HHS) – January 13, 2025, Monthly Meeting Minutes**

The Town of Horicon Historical Society January 13, 2025, monthly meeting was held at the Horicon Community Center and was called to order by President Sylvia Smith at 6:00PM. Other Board members present were Diane Loika, Mary Ann Hill, and Janet Early. Other members present were Jim Ventura, Bob Smith, Jacob Smith, Jaden Smith, Supervisor Geraci, Wayne Butler, Bill Ommerborn, and Colleen Murtagh.

**2025 Election:** The December meeting was cancelled due to a snowstorm; therefore, the annual Officer election could not be held. (Active) members were requested to vote on a motion to extend the term of the current slate of officers until the January HHS meeting, when the annual election could be held. The motion passed.

At this meeting, the prepared ballots were distributed to meeting attendees by Mary Ann Hill, and it included the 2025 slate: Sylvia Smith, President; Kathy Hill, Secretary; John Caruso, Trustee; Mary Ann Hill, Trustee. The completed ballots were collected by Mary Ann and Supervisor Gerarci and tabulated. The results were announced by Mary Ann: unanimous decision for the entire slate.

**Minutes:** Minutes from November 13, 2024, monthly meeting were provided to everyone by email prior to the meeting; hard copies were available at this meeting. Mary Ann Hill motioned to accept the minutes as received and Diane Loika seconded, and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** A copy of the Treasurer's reports for the period of November 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024, and December 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 were presented by Diane Loika. Janet Early motioned and Mary Ann Hill seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as received, and the motion carried.

The \$10,000 6-month CD is set to expire. After discussion, Mary Ann Hill made a motion to open a 6-month CD on expiration. The rate (as of last Monday) was 3.99%. Diane Loika seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **Mail:**

The Warren County Historical Society Newsletter was received. M&M sent a thank you letter to HHS (and Town of Horicon) for all their business through 2024. An invoice was received from Domain Networks for the annual web services for HoriconHistory.com. Janet Early will review and notify Diane Loika if the invoice should be paid. 1000 HHS envelopes were received with an invoice in the Town of Horicon office. Diane Loika will pick up and send out a check.

### **Town Supervisor's Report:**

- The Town received 2 bids on the work to repair and paint the exterior of the Adirondack Annex. There was substantial difference in the 2 bids, so the Town is going to re-spec the job and send out for bid again.
- The Town authorized \$1500 as payment to the HHS for 2025. Diane Loika can pick up a check from the Town office.

- On January 16, a Town Review of 2025 Capital Projects will be held at 4 pm in the Town Hall prior to the Town Board meeting. This will include the Adirondack Annex exterior repair and painting. HHS attendance is encouraged.
- The windows in the Heintzelman Library have been stained; varnishing will follow. This work is covered by the grant money received from the Heritage Foundation. Additional work being evaluated includes roof, chimney and stonework repair and entryway repair. Heritage Foundation grant money can also be used to fund this work. Applications for Grants from Gore Mountain Regional Foundation will also be submitted.
- The installation of three (3) mini splits was completed in the Brant Lake Museum. The Town office needs to be contacted for HHS payment of the cost. Diane Loika will follow-up.

### **Town of Horicon Historian's Report:**

- Colleen Murtagh has been busy with filing and sorting and answering questions on local properties and families.
- The three (3) boxes of books donated by Marty Podskoch, all reference books used in the writing of Marty's books on the Adirondacks, contained only five (5) duplicate books already in the Heintzelman Library. Colleen catalogued and shelved this collection.
- Colleen has been asked by the Library Board to do a presentation on Mrs. Heintzelman's background and association with the Heintzelman Library or on Prohibition. Colleen is looking for information about the Town of Horicon and Prohibition. Janet Early will contact Joan Johnson and ask if the presentation can be jointly sponsored with the Horicon Historical Society.
- Colleen is writing an article for the Spring edition of the Brant Lake Association (BLA) Newsletter on the books housed in the Heintzelman Library.
- Colleen was offered a donation for the enlistment and discharged papers for Samuel Smith, 108<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and a resident of Brant Lake.

**Sunshine Committee** – Barb Blum was not in attendance tonight. Janet will notify her of the passing of Jane Kolakowski.

### **President's Report:**

- Sylvia Smith submitted an article on the HHS 2024 status and 2025 plans to the BLA Newsletter. The Newsletter was published and distributed in December.
- Rob Wallace offered to donate a desk for the Horicon Museum. Unfortunately, it was agreed that the Museum is not in need of a desk at this time.

### **Comprehensive Plan Update:**

Jim Ventura reported that 206 responses were received on the Comprehensive Plan Survey, with 95 from residents, 105 from seasonal residents and five from visitors. However, 56% of the respondents were 65 or older, and 26% from 55 to 66 years of age. They are looking to get additional feedback from people 45 or younger. Outreach to North Warren High School and

other organizations as well as social media will be conducted. A Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, February 27 from 4:30 pm to 7 pm in the Town Hall. Everyone is encouraged to stop by for a few minutes and provide input on their thoughts and concerns for the Town.

### **Old Business:**

- Sylvia called Mary Gardner, daughter of Corrine Bero who loaned the Brant Lake Fishing Club logbook to the Museum in the 1980's, to discuss the book's status with her. She left a message and is awaiting a return call. Colleen is planning to make a digital copy and two print copies of the Logbook, using the larger copier in the Town Hall, during the month of January. Sylvia said that the Museum needs to be vigilant in tracking the movement of artifacts in to and out of the Museums.
- Sylvia proposed selecting pictures from the Museum that could form groupings that would be popular with Town Hall visitors. She suggested images of the two Museums and the Heintzelman Library, plus additional pictures from the Hermitage, which could be paired with the existing picture in the Town Hall. Pictures will be selected at the first Winter Workshop this Friday. It was also suggested that a system of revolving pictures be established between the Museums and Town Halls, for the benefit of all.
- A schedule of Winter Workshops for January and February was set up. The Workshops will be held in the Carriage House now that heating is available (but dress warm!). Supervisor Gerarci will ensure that the parking area is plowed.
  - Friday, January 17, 1-3PM
  - Wednesday, January 29, 10-12AM
  - Thursday, February 13, 1-3PM
  - Tuesday, February 25, 10-12AM
- Sylvia is working on the January Newsletter, which will use the material submitted to the Winter BLA Newsletter. She is looking for additional pictures that can be added. She is targeting to mail out the newsletter by the end of next week. She will notify members when help is needed to assemble the newsletter for mailing.

### **New Business:**

- A By-laws Committee is being established to review the current By-laws, explain its current rules and make recommendations on any modifications, if needed. The Committee will be chaired by Janet Early, with MaryAnn Hill and Barbara LaFond as members. The first meeting is targeted for Thursday, January 23 at 10AM in the Carriage House. Any HHS member who is interested in attending the meeting is welcomed. Please submit any By-law concern or question to Janet by the end of the day on Monday, January 20.
- A Membership Committee is being established to expand the HHS membership, increase fund-raising, and encourage more active participation. The Committee will be chaired by Diane Loika, with John Caruso as member. Any HHS member who is interested in joining this Committee, please contact Sylvia or Diane.

- Sylvia was in contact with Bill Millington who has permission to donate an original stone and two stained glass windows to the Museum from the original Stonehurst structure. A display will be created of Stonehurst in the hotel section of the Museum. Sylvia's grandfather built the home; her father was raised in that home; and many of the boarding house guests later built permanent homes around Brant Lake. Diane Loika made a motion and Mary Ann Hill seconded that these artifacts be accepted by the Museum.
- Dave Bourque donated a pair of hiking pants that were the evidence used to convict the hermit, Allan Como, in 2009 for breaking and entering camps throughout the area. The story of this man was widely followed at the time. It was suggested that it would make an interesting addition to the Museum. Janet Early will research the material available. Mary Ann Hill motioned, and Diane Loika seconded that this donation be accepted by the Museum.

**Comments from the floor: None**

**Adjournment:**

Mary Ann motioned, and Diane Loika seconded, and the motion carried. Next meeting, scheduled for Monday, February 10, will be held at Town of Horicon Community Center, 6 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Janet Early, substituting for Kathy Hill, Secretary, who is on vacation.