

Town of Horicon Historical Society (HHS) – February 10, 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes

The Town of Horicon Historical Society February 10, 2025, 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, Janet Early, Diane Loika, Mary Ann Hill, and John Caruso via Google Meet. Other members present were Jim Ventura, Bob Smith, Barb Blum, Louis Rambone, Melanie Fuerst, Mike Hill, John Francisco, and Bill Ommerborn.

Minutes: Minutes from the January 13, 2025 monthly meeting were provided to everyone by email prior to the meeting; hard copies were available at this meeting. Thank you to Janet Early for taking the minutes in January while Kathy Hill was on vacation. Mary Ann Hill motioned to accept the minutes with corrections and Janet Early seconded, and the motion carried. Corrections were as follows: Revised spelling of new member Bill Ommerborn's last name and revision to Historian's report to show that Colleen is working on a report for the Brant Laker.

Treasurer's Report: A copy of the Treasurer's report for the period of January 2025 was presented by Diane Loika. Diane advised that membership renewals were coming in steadily and that the Society CD was renewed in January at 3.9% earnings rate for six (6) months coming up for renewal in July. Kathy Hill motioned, and Mary Ann Hill seconded to accept that the Treasurer's report was received, and the motion carried.

Mail: An invitation from the Cornell Cooperative Extension was received, requesting attendance at the Youth Fair held in Warrensburg August 2025 with RSVP deadline for a display space needed by July 15, 2025.

Town Supervisor's Report: Due to out-of-town obligations, Supervisor Mike Geraci was unable to attend this meeting. Sylvia Smith noted that the Supervisor is following up on several projects currently in the works.

President's Report: Following are the activities through the month:

- Workshop January 17 plus January 21 – Members - Diane, Janet, Jim, Mary Ann, and Sylvia, the yearly Membership renewal letter was completed.
- Workshop January 29 – Members - Barbara L, Diane, Jane, Jim, Mary Ann, and Sylvia organized packets for scanning and albums.
- On January 30th and February 3rd - the By-law committee (Barb L, Janet, Mary Ann, and Sylvia) met to review and proposed changes were made.
- Artifact Deed of Gift and Loan Agreement forms were reviewed and updated. Sylvia will check with Town of Horicon attorney, Mark Shackner for review of verbiage.

Comprehensive Planning Committee: Jim Ventura – liaison to the Town of Horicon Comprehensive Planning Committee reported that on February 27th there will be a public workshop on the Town Comprehensive Plan to be held at the Horicon Community Center from 4:30 to 7 pm. Jim encouraged all to attend to give their feedback.

Town of Horicon Historian’s Report:

- Researched Addison Blair from Adirondack for a request received from the current owner of the property he once owned. A contemporary of Philetus Smith and the Bartons, quite a bit of interesting information was found and passed on
- Researched the Heintzelman family, military history, and local history for a summer presentation
- Finished cataloging books from Marty Podskoch collection
- Now that things have settled down in the Secretary’s office, made an appointment with Becky to use her office and copier to copy the Brant Lake Fishing Club registry next week
- Researched and answered a request from the town clerk about the Heintzelman Library
- Continued filing and adding to database

Sunshine Committee – Barb Blum advised she had sent a condolence card to the family of Jane Kolakowski and a get-well card to Alice Wood.

Old Business: Sylvia Smith reported that Mary Gardner had responded on January 10th at 9 pm regarding the Brant Lake Fishing Club log and would like the Society to reassess this book into our collection. Colleen Murtagh will make copies, hold one in the Heintzلمان Library, provide one for John Francisco and a copy for the museum. The original book will be held in the Horicon Museum. Sylvia mailed out the Deed Agreement for Mary Gardner to sign and return.

The project to select and provide Society pictures and artwork to be displayed in the Town Hall is in the works.

New Business:

By-laws – the first reading of the proposed By-law changes was conducted. Mary Ann Hill motioned, and John Caruso seconded to accept the By-law changes as read and the motion passed unanimously with 14 yays, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Janet Early reported the following dates for Workshops to be held at the Horicon Museum Carriage House:

Tuesday	February 18	1 pm to 3 pm
Tuesday	February 23	10 am to 12
Thursday	March 13	10 am to 12
Tuesday	March 25	1 pm to 3 pm
Thursday	April 10	1 pm to 3 pm

Comments from the floor:

Mary Ann Hill, Trustee, brought forward information regarding the Adirondack Museum Annex. A public Town Board Meeting was held on January 16, 2025 to discuss and prioritize all building projects for the Town in 2025. From the minutes that she read on the Town's website, posted under the local government tab, Mary Ann expressed her concern that the Town would consider utilizing the building in other ways than the Adirondack Museum Annex or selling it. Also, she was concerned that the Town Board would repurpose the grant money that Assemblyman Matt Simpson had obtained for repairs to the Annex. She also stated that she had been contacted by former Society board member, John Donovan, expressing his concerns about a potential abandonment of the Adirondack Museum Annex. Mary Ann reminded those in attendance that donations and a successful grant written by John Donovan for \$100,000 had already been spent on this project and that to date, the Town's investment is minimal. Furthermore, there are deed restrictions applicable to this property that would limit its resale.

Mike Hill spoke at the meeting and voiced similar concerns about not completing the renovation of the building that had been under consideration by the Society and the Town Board. He also spoke about the extensive donations, fund raising efforts and volunteer hours that have gone into the Adirondack Museum Annex. He said he would be very unhappy if this project were not completed in some manner in the future. He advised that he could not attend the next Town Board meeting on February 20th, but that he would contact Town Board members directly prior to that meeting to provide his concerns and feedback. He said he would offer to assist Board Member Kayla Carlozzi with his background as a general contractor.

Town Board member John Francisco, reported that he had reviewed two very differently priced bid proposals for the exterior work at the Adirondack Annex. John said he contacted the bidders to go over the differences and that he expected this item to be on the agenda for the next Town Board meetings held in February or March. He and Mike Hill spoke about the feasibility of changing the specs for this project, to consider a less expensive exterior such as vinyl siding and replacement windows for the building rather than repainting the exterior including lead abatement and rebuilding the original windows. John also stated that a change of venue for this building would need to be brought to a public vote. He stated that board member Carlozzi was the head of the building and grounds committee for the Town of Horicon. John also stated that he didn't feel it was right that five (5) Board members should make the decision.

Sylvia Smith, who attended the January 16th public meeting, advised that the Town was in the process of prioritizing all building projects for 2025, considering their options for funding, and that no final decisions had been made. She encouraged Society members to attend these board meetings, follow the website, and provide their input to their Town representatives.

Adjournment: Kathy Hill motioned, and Mary Ann Hill seconded, and the motion carried. Next meeting, scheduled for March 10th and will be held at the Town of Horicon Community Center at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hill, Secretary