

## **Town of Horicon Historical Society (HHS) – March 10, 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes**

The Town of Horicon Historical Society March 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 Diane Loika, Mary Ann Hill, and Janet Early. Other members present were Jim Ventura, Bob Smith, Barb Blum, Louis Rambone, Melanie Fuerst, John Francisco, and Wayne Butler.

**Minutes:** Minutes of February 10, 2025 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 and Janet Early seconded, and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** A copy of the Treasurer's report for the period of February 2025 was presented by Diane Loika. Membership renewals and donations continue to be received and processed by Diane. Janet Early motioned and Mary Ann Hill seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as received, and the motion carried.

**Mail:** No mail received this month.

**Town Supervisor's Report:** Supervisor Mike Geraci was unable to attend this meeting.

**President's Report:** Sylvia noted that a Logbook is now in the Carriage House (on cabinet by piano). Anyone coming to the Museum throughout the winter months should sign in and indicate their activity. This provides a good record of volunteer activity, a mainstay of the Museum. Also, please notify Janet Early, Winter Workshop Chairperson, so that the work being done at home can be recorded and coordinated across all the projects.

Sylvia highlighted the work being done by the Society members – Shelly Gautreau, Melanie Furst, Mary Ann Hill, Bill Ommerborn, Jim Ventura, Janet Early and Sylvia at the Workshops and home on preserving the Museum's photos and documents in albums for eventual viewing by Museum and Food Truck visitors. This includes work on a Victorian Album, Postcard Album, Historical Documents Album, Hotel Album, "Vacation Days" Album, Horicon Alumnae Album (using Sylvia's photos also), Early Photos of Horicon and the Barton Family Album. Sylvia highlighted and commended Diane on the work she has done over the last few months in receiving and responding to the membership renewals and donations and keeping the membership list and financial records up to date. Kudos to Bob Smith for removing the snow from the Museum's roofs before the last snow/rainstorm.

Other activities throughout the month include submitting February's HHS report to the Town Board; compiling an Alumnae Scrapbook for the Museum; and working on the HHS submission to the BLA Newsletter. The Deed of Gift form for the Brant Lake Fishing Club Log Book was received. Sylvia was in contact with Ricky Smith to review past Museum loans and possible

new donations. Historical pictures from the Museum were selected and, with Bob Smith, reframed and hung in the Town Hall.

**Comprehensive Planning Committee:** Jim Ventura, liaison to the Horicon Comprehensive Planning Committee, reported that the February 27 Public Feedback on the Town Comprehensive Plan was very well attended. A meeting this week of the Comprehensive Planning Committee should include a summary of Feedback session. Also, interviews are being scheduled with Town residents to solicit more in-depth feedback.

**Town of Horicon Historian's Report:** Colleen Murtagh was not able to attend. Her report has not yet been received.

**Sunshine Committee** – Barb Blum advised she had sent a condolence card to the Singer family on the passing of Harriet Singer, as well as a get-well card to Gert Newton. Sylvia requested that cards be sent to Barbara LaFond, undergoing foot surgery, and Paul Holmes, who is not well.

**Old Business:** The second and final reading of the update to the By-Laws was read. No changes were noted. Mary Ann Hill motioned to accept the updated By-Laws and Janet Early seconded, and the motion carried, by a vote of 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstains. The new By-laws go into effect immediately.

The Deed of Gift and Loan Agreement forms were reviewed by the Town Attorney, with updates made. Chuck Bennett is almost finished with the installation of the heating/cooling systems in both buildings. Some additional outdoor work is needed on the main building, but weather permitting, the work should be completed by the end of March. Dave Towers should restart the work on window repairs once the weather warms up, and the snow melts!

The following dates for Winter Workshops being held at the Horicon Museum Carriage House:

Thursday	March 13	10 am to 12 noon
Tuesday	March 25	1 to 3 PM
Thursday	April 10	1 to 3 PM
Tuesday	April 22	10 to 12 noon

**New Business:**

Wayne Butler solved the question if a Brant Lake Chamber of Commerce ever existed – he donated a poster of the organization, which dates to 1954. Sylvia proposed the poster be framed and hung with the Hotel exhibit in the Carriage House.

Sylvia proposed that additional archival supplies be purchased, needed by the Winter Workshops to continue with their preservation work. Mary Ann Hill made a motion that no

more than \$500 be spent on archival supplies from Gaylord for this work; Janet Early seconded the motion, and it passed. A list of supplies was given to Diane Loika for ordering.

John Francisco asked about the exterior renovation project at the Adirondack Annex and if Cedarwoods Engineering must be used to create bid specifications for the project. Sylvia said that the project was a Town project, not a HHS project, and that the Town Board must decide on what needs to be done with the building, and the process used to enable that work.

Wayne Butler said that he was scheduled to speak at the NYS Federation of Lake Associations Annual Conference in Lake George in May. He would like to incorporate a historical Brant Lake reference in his opening remarks, to publicize the significance of our Lake to the area. It was suggested he use the photo of Teddy Roosevelt with Abe Crook showing his fishing success at Brant Lake.

After discussion, the 2025 Museum schedule was set:  
Brant Lake – Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday – 11 to 3PM  
Adirondack – Thursday, Friday, Saturday – 11 to 3PM  
Food Truck Friday – 5 to 8PM

The opening and closing dates were not decided; it will be discussed in the May meeting, along with a volunteer schedule to staff this.

The events for this upcoming season include John Caruso's presentation on the History of the BLA, Colleen Murtagh's presentations on the Heintzelman Library (sponsored by Library Board) and the Prohibition Era in Horicon (co-sponsored with Library Board), and a boat exhibit by Garwood. Other possible activities include a tour/talk of Sunset Lodge, tour/talk of Camp Gibbons property, a repeat presentation on Jimmy Van Heusen's Life and Music by Larry Meltzer, and an educational talk on bats. Barbara Blum is coordinating the HHS activities. Mary Ann Hill will get the Chestertown HS calendar for 2025 so that the HHS is not in conflict.

Sylvia suggested that the Children's Room in the Museum be redone, removing the bed and dresser, making room for more children's related items. The bed headboard and dresser could be moved to the first-floor bedroom where local furniture can be highlighted.

**Comments from the floor:** None.

**Adjournment:** Janet Early motioned, and Mary Ann Hill seconded, and the motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 12th and will be held at the Town of Horicon Community Center at 6 PM. No April meeting is scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Early, Vice President, in Kathy Hill's absence