

Town of Horicon Historical Society (HHS) – May 12, 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes

The Town of Horicon Historical Society May 12, 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, Barb LaFond, Janet Early, Mary Ann Hill, and John Caruso. Other members present were Jim Ventura, Bob Smith, Louis Rambone, Melanie Fuerst, Mike Hill, John Francisco, Supervisor Mike Geraci, Mary Jo Hebert, Camille Dougan and Teri Schuerlein.

Minutes: Minutes from March 10, 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, Vice President for taking and publishing the minutes in March 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 Melanie Fuerst's last name.

Treasurer's Report: A copy of the treasurer's report for the period of March and April 2025 presented by Sylvia Smith. Diane Loika, Treasurer, was unable to attend the meeting due to an accident. Diane asked that it be noted that checks were dispersed in May for the HHS portion of building renovations completed at the Brant Lake Museum totaling \$13060 and that the most recent newsletter produced \$2K more in revenues than the previous year including new lifetime memberships. Kathy Hill motioned, and John Caruso seconded to accept that the Treasurer's report as received, and the motion carried.

Mail: Warren County and Warrensburg Historical Society newsletters, North Warren Central School Graduation committee seeking scholarships for 2025 ceremonies. A motion was made by Barbara LaFond and seconded by Kathy Hill to provide two \$250 scholarships for graduating Seniors with the highest four-year average in social studies and that the scholarships include an invitation to the two recipients for a photo at the HHS museum.

Town Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Geraci updated on:

- Chester Senior Citizens Group has agreed to join up with Horicon Senior Citizens and offered to install a board member from the Town of Horicon, to which Mary Ann Hill advised she would accept a nomination. The Town of Horicon will provide some funding for the organization and a story in the Chronicle is planned for a future date.
- Mike Hill was thanked for meeting with Cedarwood Engineering and councilmember Francisco at the Adk Museum Annex to assist in the creation of specs for bid for exterior siding and the project separation into siding and windows/doors. Specs for bids have been published and are due back to the Town of Horicon by May 15. Calls of inquiry have been received.
- Windows have been completed in the Heintzelman Library in the last few weeks and the funders have requested that the planned entrance column work not use PVC.
- Vicki will begin Spring cleaning in the museums this week.
- Thank you to the HHS workshop participants that put together the collection of HHS pictures now available for viewing in the Town Hall
- The Town is considering replacing their sound system and would like to know if the HHS would consider installing the current system in the museums. There would be a cost for the installation to be determined. HHS expressed interest in investigating its use in the museums.

President's Report:

HHS thanked the Town Board for providing one half of the money to complete the renovations at the Brant Lake Museum, especially the new heating units that allowed the HHS Winter Workshops to take place during the cold weather. Thank you also to all Winter Workshop participants and to the members who worked on projects remotely at home. Thank you to everyone who donated materials

towards the museum album completions and reminder that tax deductible receipts are available upon request.

Janet Early was requested to contact Barbara Blum for updates on upcoming events/seminars

-July 8 – All About Bats

-Sept 14 – Sunset Mountain Lodge Tour

-TBD – Garwood Boats

-TBD – Joint venture with Horicon Library including Historian Coleen Murtagh's presentations

Sunshine Committee – Janet Early will contact Barb Blum to request a card of sympathy be sent to the family of HHS member Maureen Wilson and get-well cards be sent to Paul Holmes and Diane Loika.

Old Business:

- The Brant Lake Fishing Club book is now in the museum and will be stored in a case and copies have been made to be used as viewing material.

- 14 Albums have been completed during the Winter Workshops and still in progress are albums with information about Horicon Central School which when completed will be a three-album series.

- Museum opening dates confirmed:

Adirondack Museum Annex – July 4 through Sept 10

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays – 11 am to 3 pm

Mary Ann Hill, Melanie Fuerst and Mary Jo Hebert

Brant Lake Museum – July 1 through Sept 10

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays – 11 am to 3 pm

Bob & Sylvia Smith, Janet Early & Jim Ventura, Diane Loika & Barbara LaFond, John Caruso

September – invitations to school students

Private tours will be scheduled in addition to regular hours upon request

Food Truck Fridays – July 4 through Sept 5 – volunteers are sought for each Friday

New Business:

- Workshops - In May, we will switch our focus to the tasks of preparing the Museums for re-opening this summer, including cleanup and creation of new exhibits. The dates in May are Thursday, May 15, Tuesday, May 20, and Thursday, May 29 – all from 10 to 12 in Brant Lake.

- Adirondack Foundation - Community Fund Gore Mountain Region Grant Applications due May 31. Kathy Hill will apply for grants through the online platform, a list of grant application topics was discussed and narrowed down to folding chairs and other equipment to promote additional uses at the Adirondack Museum, display cabinets and display equipment for both locations and framing of documents for both locations.

- Possible summer sale in Adirondack - Mary Ann Hill motioned and Barbara LaFond seconded that if our application for chairs is successful, that the HHS make available for sale/donation our current white plastic chairs and the motion carried. Barbara LaFond will work to provide a 2025 HHS budget and Kathy Hill will gather backup documents required such as pictures, descriptions and estimates of desired items to purchase, a budget for each application submitted and a statement of the current list of HHS board members and trustees.

- Acceptance and accession of new museum items: - Diane Loika has offered to donate three military bears to enhance the appreciation for our historical military displays with school-aged

children. Mary Ann Hill motioned to accept these and Barbara LaFond seconded and the motion passed.

- Mary Ann Hill motioned and John Caruso seconded the acceptance of a donation of a pair of authentic looking vintage women's white shoes from Tom Hill and the motion carried.

- Adirondack Annex - -Kathy Hill provided updates regarding the Adk Museum Annex and included input from Mary Jo Herbert, Mary Ann Hill and Melanie Fuerst, the team who will be staffing the museum this summer. Discussions included: identifying any needed renovations; specs/bids & funding; initiative to increase use of the building beyond the museum regular hours; reconfiguring displays and artifacts to accommodate the increased museum usage; and efforts to host one or more events/seminars in 2025. Sylvia asked for input from all members on these topics, to be discussed again at the June meeting.

-Mike Hill shared his findings regarding the Adk Museum Annex including assistance in the creation of specs for renovations and efforts to secure funding for purchase of windows separately from the exterior siding project.

Comments from the floor: No additional comments received.

Adjournment: Barbara Lafond motioned, and John Caruso seconded, and the motion carried. Next meeting, scheduled for June 9th at 6 pm and the location, depending on weather, may be at one of the museums.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Hill, Secretary