

Town of Horicon Historical Society (HHS) – July 14, 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes

The Town of Horicon Historical Society July 14, 2025 monthly meeting was held at the Adirondack Museum Annex 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, Diane Loika and John Caruso. Other members present were Jim Ventura, Bob Smith, Melanie Fuerst, Louis Rambone, Mike Hill, Mary Jo Hebert, Camille Dougan, Horicon Historian Colleen Murtagh, Teri Schuerlein, Paul and Margaret Holmes and Bill Ommerborn.

Minutes: Minutes from June 9, 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 publishing the minutes from June. John Caruso motioned to accept the minutes and Mary Ann Hill seconded, and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A copy of the treasurer's report for the period of June 2025 was presented by Diane Loika, Treasurer. Kathy Hill motioned to accept the report as received, Barbara LaFond seconded, and the motion carried.

Mail: Arrow Bank provided notice of the CD renewal and Diane contacted the board to vote and a motion was passed to renew the CD for another 6 months. North Warren Central School advised that Molly Gould and Jessica Paul were the two graduating seniors to receive the HHS award. A personal thank you note was received from Jessica Paul.

Town Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Geraci's report was presented by President Sylvia Smith as follows: I talk with Mike Hill several times a week in reference to the Adk Museum Annex construction project. Mike has established a tremendous relationship with the contractor and has been able to negotiate a reduction of costs on the required change orders. We are very fortunate to have Mike serving as the project manager as his knowledge and experience prove to be a benefit to the Town on a daily basis. From my perspective the project is proceeding on schedule with positive results. Mike has identified a couple of trees on the museum property that should be taken down. We will be working on that ASAP. When the construction is completed, we will be removing the grass and weeds in front of the building, lying down weed fabric and covering the area with stone. This should be a significant improvement.

On Thursday evening, the Town Board is going to appoint Wayne Butler, to fill in John Francisco's seat on the Town Board. Wayne is an unopposed candidate for Town Supervisor and the experience gained on the board for the balance of this year will certainly help him in becoming supervisor. Wayne will also be the liaison to the HHS and the Town Historian.

President's Report:

Thank you to Rob Wallace for moving the tables and chairs to Adirondack for this meeting. Rob, as part of his job as an employee of the Town of Horicon, is doing his job to support the HHS in their desire to increase the use of the Adk Museum Annex.

Mary Ann Hill is in charge of museum operations in Adirondack and Sylvia Smith is in charge of museum operations in Brant Lake.

As the Museums shift from preparations for the season into open hours, thank you to all volunteers who have worked very hard to get ready.

Thank you to Paul Holmes for returning to volunteer at the Brant Lake Museum.

Jim and Janet have been identifying and tagging items in the tool room and the barn in Brant Lake. Sylvia has been preparing ID tags for the main museum items.

A large collection of pipes has been moved to a prominent display location in the museum.

In support of the newly unified Horicon and Chester Sr Citizens Group, Mary Ann Hill will obtain and provide a schedule of the activities of this organization to post in each museum.

President Sylvia Smith reported on the following:

A quote for a heating/AC unit to be installed in the Adk Museum Annex has been received in the amount of \$8970. Supervisor Geraci has asked for HHS input on this expense as well as consideration for HHS to provide 50% of the cost. The HHS board would like to consider this expense after the current project for exterior siding is completed and a plan is presented for the replacement windows which in turn may affect the size of the unit quoted.

Mike Hill will contact Supervisor Geraci and schedule a meeting with HHS President as well as Horicon Town Board Liaison to HHS, Wayne Butler, and Town Clerk Krista Wood for review of protocol for donations to purchase windows that he has sought.

Mary Jo Hebert has the Instagram page up and running @horiconnyhistoricalsociety and is posting pictures and information. Discussion ensued about getting the website, the facebook page and the Instagram linked. Mary Jo, Diane, Janet, and Margaret will work together on coordinating this publicity. Diane and Margaret will work on an updated 3-fold flyer for 2026.

Sunshine Committee – Barbara Blum was unable to attend but sent her report to President Smith and cards were sent to Paul Holmes, Barbara LaFond, the Family of John Francisco, the Maureen Wilson family, and Elna Meader.

Historian's Report – Town of Horicon Historian, Colleen Murtagh reported:

Based on a health issue within her family and the lack of information to present a joint program with the Town of Horicon library that she would not be doing any programs this year. Colleen has been researching Nichols and Ghents family histories and the George Malloy family.

During the first two Food Truck Fridays over 15 people stopped in the museum each week. She is awaiting return contact from NCPR radio regarding their series on North Country at Work and the Horicon Historical Society and that Christine Smith has offered many documents found in her mother's home for reproduction and display by the HHS.

She is working to better organize with search tabs within the database, wants to have a third party at the Town of Horicon level who can access the information and hopes that the HHS website will be able to link to the database in the future.

Adirondack Yard Sale Committee – Mary Ann Hill advised that the committee has met weekly and is building a yard sale event to be held on **Saturday August 9th with rain date of the 10th**.

Donations from members will be accepted on Friday during the museum open hours, set up and ready for sale on Saturday. She is seeking volunteers to assist on Friday and Saturday.

Mary Ann motioned that \$100 be budgeted to purchase scratch off tickets to be used, \$50 in each museum for door prizes. John Caruso motioned, and Barbara LaFond seconded to fund a Ticket Program, and the motion passed.

Mary Ann would like to be able to create a Camp Red Wing Program in future Summers where campers were asked to visit the Adk Museum Annex, view the Red Wing artifacts and have a tour of the Museum.

Program Committee - Sylvia Smith reported for Barbara Blum on the very poor experience with the DEC paid employee who was going to present the Bat Program. The presenter contacted Barbara less than two hours before the program and advised that she did not have a sitter for a child. HHS pulled together and offered to provide assistance but no response from the presenter followed. Thanks to Mary Ann Hill for handling this late notice and large problem. Dan Smith, HHS member was contacted and within an hour, was ready to present a program on bees for 22 attendees which

generated very positive feedback. Sylvia asked if a protocol be enacted: MaryAnn suggested that if a presenter is paid, there should be no additional financial contribution from HHS; if a presenter is a volunteer a cap of \$25 should be set for a thank you gift. Margaret Holmes suggested that Dan Smith be thanked with a lifetime HHS membership. Mary Ann Hill motioned, and Barbara LaFond seconded that Dan was offered lifetime membership for his contributions and the motion passed. Diane Loika will create the card and a thank you with the membership will be sent to Dan.

Sylvia Smith advised of the cancellation of two tentatively scheduled summer programs and discussion ensued about new program prospects. It was decided that a new program on the Brant Lake Association be presented through a power point shown by John Caruso in August. John agreed to finalize that presentation and a date will be scheduled soon.

A program of a tour of the Sunset Mountain Lodge is tentatively scheduled for Sept 14th and the end of year staff party has received approval to be held at the Lodge there again this year. John will chair the end of the year party.

Old Business:

Sylvia has a new contact for our HHS shirts and will order asap. Bill Ommerborn and Mike Hill asked to be added to the shirt list.

The August Town Board meeting is scheduled to be held at the Adk Museum Annex.

The white chairs available for sale though the HHS are selling. \$90 has already been raised and any members who would like to buy chairs should do so before they are brought to Adirondack for the yard sale. They are being sold for \$5.00each.

The status of the CFGMR grant requests is not yet known.

Food Truck Friday scheduling will be Barbara Blum, John Caruso, and Paul Holmes for this week.

New Business:

Acceptance and accession of new museum items:

Bushel baskets, tea bag holders, and china pitcher presented by Melanie Fuerst as a donation by Robert and Maureen Diaz, former owners of the Adk General Store

Victorian table, children's books, and elementary school desk by David Tower

Garwood book by Janet Early

Brant Lake and Adirondack felt pennants, 1960's stickers, town clerk sign and photo, lady's auxiliary accessories, budget register from the 1960's and Caro Smith home photo by Christine Smith

Camp Red Wing music score books by an anonymous donor

Travelers Restaurant hotel ware

Victorian souvenir glass cup, steam ship captain's daughter on Schroon Lake donated by Jennifer Green and Stuart Moses, presented by Mike Hill

Tom Johansen's rocking chair presented by John Caruso and Camille Dougan

Kathy Hill motioned to accept these items and John Caruso seconded and the motion passed.

Privilege of the floor:

Kathy Hill advised ESSLA has invited HHS to make a short presentation of their desire to share use of the Adk Museum Annex at July 24, 2025 ESSLA meeting at the Horicon Community Center at 9:30 am. It was discussed that our recently created, shared use guidelines, be provided at this meeting and that ESSLA share their ideas for use to HHS in writing. Mary Ann Hill, Mary Jo Hebert, and Kathy Hill will be attending this meeting.

Diane Loika and Margaret Holmes are putting together pictures and information to be used in new tri fold brochures for the 2026 Museum season.

Paul Holmes asked if a donation review committee had been formed to review items being considered for acceptance and the current procedures were reviewed.

Mary Ann Hill will be seeking information on how to clean stained glass windows.

Adjournment: Barbara LaFond motioned, and John Caruso seconded to adjourn, and the motion carried. Next meeting, scheduled for August 11th at 6 pm at the Carriage House in Brant Lake.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Hill, Secretary