

Town of Horicon Historical Society (HHS) – September 8, 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes

The Town of Horicon Historical Society September 8, 2025 monthly meeting was held at the Horicon Museum Carriage House and was called to order by President, Sylvia Smith at 6:00 pm. Board members present were Kathy Hill, Janet Early, Mary Ann Hill and John Caruso. Other members present were Jim Ventura, Bob Smith, Melanie Fuerst, Mike Hill, Camille Dougan, Teri Schuerlein, Barbara Blum, Wayne Butler, Paul Holmes, Margaret Holmes, and Bill Ommerborn.

Minutes:

- Minutes from August 11th 2025, monthly meeting were provided to everyone by email prior to the meeting. Thank you to Janet Early, Vice President for publishing, and Diane Loika for editing the minutes from August.
- Comments: Melanie Fuerst asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect that she also worked at the Adirondack Museum Annex during the sale in addition to working at the Adirondack Yard Sale in the center of town.
- Janet Early motioned to accept the minutes with corrections, and Bill Ommerborn seconded, and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

- Diane Loika, Treasurer, was absent from the meeting due to a family health emergency. She contacted President Sylvia Smith prior to the meeting to advise that the bank statement for August was received from Arrow Bank and reconciled, all bills received were paid in full and that she would provide a copy of the August 2025 treasurer's report at a later date.

Mail: No mail.

Town Supervisor's Report:

- Supervisor Geraci was absent as he was representing Warren County as the NYS Association of Counties meeting in Niagara Falls.

President's Report:

- Busy month and thanks to all HHS volunteers.
- September 2nd, 2025 – A special board meeting was held at the Brant Lake Museum and attended by all Board members and members of the Budget Committee for the purpose of reviewing the HHS 2026 Budgetary needs and to review the 2026 HHS budget work in progress.
- September 4th, 2025 – Treasurer Diane Loika chaired a budget committee meeting with Bill Ommerborn, John Caruso, and Sylvia Smith to confirm and complete the budget numbers.
- September 5th, 2025 – John Caruos and Bill Ommerborn joined Sylvia Smith for a budget presentation of requests to the Town of Horicon with Supervisor Geraci, Board Member Wayne Butler, Budget Officer Craig Leggett, and Becky Ross. Sylvia Smith received a follow up from Supervisor Geraci thanking us for the organized presentation and thoughtful budget preparation. He is hopeful that the Town can honor our requests. If our requests for funding for carpet in the Brant Lake Carriage House building can be funded from the 2025 remaining Town of Horicon funds, we will be able to undertake that project this Fall. Carpet samples were viewed, and selection was noted.

- August Horicon Town Board meeting was a success in the Adirondack Annex, with many positive follow up comments on the work that has been done and the professional displays. Thirty (30) people were in attendance.
- ESSLA held their meeting in the Adirondack Annex as well with thirteen (13) members present and again numerous positive comments.
- Museum attendance numbers for the season will be finalized and be presented with our monthly report to the Town Board.
- The HHS shirts are in, and most have been distributed. Please let Sylvia Smith know if you need one.
- Food Truck Fridays were a terrific success this year and it was great to receive the interest at both the HHS and BLA tables. Thanks to the volunteers.
- Workshops will begin soon in the Carriage House. Watch the dates coming up in October, where work will continue on album index pages. Paul's Project and sorting in the upstairs archives. Two workshops per month are planned with special workshops to be added.
- Paul's Project – In accordance with the purpose of the HHS to present a look back at life in the early years of town, Paul Holmes is reviewing Town of Horicon records of deaths between the years of 1884 and 1974 (at which date a flood destroyed many records). Interesting facts being tabulated include: 860 deaths, more male deaths than female, major categories include: heart ailments, cholera, drownings, shootings, and chronic consumption.
- Brainstorming with members and volunteers at the museums has helped create ideas for program planning for 2026.

Historian's Report – None submitted.

Sunshine Committee:

- Barbara Blum reported: no cards sent

Program Committee:

- Barbara Blum and Camille Dougan reported that the historical tour at Sunset Mountain Lodge on September 14th at 4 pm is coming together. This program will be open to the public. Advertising is taking place and more will be done.
- Date for the HHS End of Year Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be Wednesday, September 17th at the Sunset Mountain Lodge at 6 pm. Roast beef will be the featured entrée. Please RSVP to Sylvia Smith (sibbybob@nycap.rr.com) and John Caruso (john.caruso@live.com) by Wednesday, September 10th. 5 tables will be decorated with different themes.
- President Sylvia Smith thanked the committee members for their work and outlined protocols for future events to be reported by committees to the group at meetings so that all members can participate in decisions and provide feedback on such parts as advertising.

Budget Committee:

- Working to present a final budget.

Nominating Committee:

- Barbara Lafond, Mike Geraci and Mary Ann Hill will review the list of positions coming up for election and work on the nominations. Wayne Butler may fill in as alternate.

Old Business:

- September 14th and September 17th dates at Sunset Mountain Lodge are confirmed.
- September 29th – North Warren Central School 4th grade tour in the Brant Lake Museum is confirmed. Projects will include; designing their own quilt piece, participating in washing clothes in the early tub washer, and Dan Smith will be asked to provide a demonstration of knife and blade sharpening on the stone wheel.
- Use of the buildings – HHS has always maintained logs of use of the building, any time members are in the buildings. The Town supervisor has requested and supplied a monthly form to track and report our numbers.
- BLA and ESSLA newsletters are accepting contributions from HHS and writers are sought.

New Business:

- Planning of potential new programs was discussed with the January 2026 monthly meeting as a deadline to finalize the listing:
 1. June 2026 – Caro Smith house tour
 2. Other house tours, TBD
 3. North Warren Central School History Club
 4. Car Shows – possible at both museums
 5. Dan Bergeren – music by Adirondack song writer
 6. Adirondack Yard Sale – August 2026
 7. Books sale in Horicon
 8. Book borrowing in Adirondack
 9. Potluck Dinner or Cup of Soup Night
 10. Repeat 4th grade class and add mor classes
 11. Scavenger Hunt – brainstormed by Sylvia Smith and Mary Jo Hebert
 12. Senior Citizen tours with joint Senior Citizens' group from Chestertown and Horicon
 13. Blood Drive – coordinate with EMS and Town of Horicon
- Plan ahead for 2026!
- Acceptance and accession of new museum items:
 1. 2 old shot guns donated by John Caruso – 12 gauge and 410, with deer foot hanging rack by anonymous donor
 2. A collection of pottery planters from the 1950s, family photos possibly of Perotti family donated by Dennis Tierney
 3. 2 Antique walking canes donated by Mike and Kathy Hill
 4. Flour sacks that were pretty fabric and historically were made into clothing, donated by Barbara MahlerJohn Caruso motioned to accept these items and Bill Ommerborn seconded and the motion passed.

- Roadside signs to announce museum openings and events will be considered for 2026.

Privilege of the Floor:

- Janet Early provided an example of a spread sheet of accessed items in progressed.
- Sylvia Smith thanked John Caruso for his assistance getting internet and phone access set up in the Brant Lake Museum. Much work is happening with this new tool.
- Paul Holmes received a copy of the Town Clerk's listing of all Horicon residents that served in the Civil War.
- Discussion ensued about the need for furniture and artifact movers to work in the Carriage House prior to the carpet installation should that project be a go for this Fall.

Adjournment:

- Mary Ann Hill motioned, and Kathy Hill seconded to adjourn, and the motion carried. Next meeting, scheduled for **October 6th** at 6 PM at the **Carriage House in Brant Lake**.
- **Note: The date of October's monthly meeting is the first Monday of the month because the Columbus Day holiday falls on the second Monday.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Hill, Secretary