

Town of Horicon Historical Society (HHS) – August 11, 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes

The Town of Horicon Historical Society August 11, 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, Diane Loika and John Caruso. Other members present were Jim Ventura, Bob Smith, Melanie Fuerst, Louis Rambone, Mike Hill, Mary Jo Hebert, Camille Dougan, Teri Schuerlein, Supervisor Mike Geraci, Dan Smith, Barbara Blum, Wayne Butler, and Bill Ommerborn.

Minutes:

- Minutes from July 14th 2025, monthly meeting were provided to everyone by email prior to the meeting. Thank you to Janet Early, Vice President for publishing the minutes from July. 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 July 2025 was presented by Diane Loika, Treasurer. Kathy Hill motioned to accept the report as received, Barbara LaFond seconded, and the motion carried. We now have 17 new members that have joined.

Mail: Diane Loika reported:

1. a thank you card from member Dona Parker
2. The CFGMR grant funding of \$1500 was received

Town Supervisor's Report:

- Supervisor Geraci reported that the Adirondack Museum Annex Update - Thank you to Mike Hill for doing a great job as project manager of the Adirondack Museum siding project and advised that the new septic holding tank had been installed today. Soon the Town will take down a couple of dead trees, expand and stone the surface of the parking lot and topsoil and seed the rear lawn.
- Heintzelman Library Update – Of the National Park Service grant of \$56k, \$20k remains in the pool of funds and Supervisor Geraci is seeking to determine if the funds can be used on other projects and reported that a new roof leak has been observed and quickly repaired.
- Brant Lake Museum Update – Supervisor Geraci acknowledged the HHS request for WIFI in addition to the current landline/phone service that the Town provides. He has contacted Frontier, Star Link and Spectrum for quotes for installation of equipment and monthly fees. This request will be presented to the Town Board at the August 21st meeting for consideration.
- President Sylvia Smith responded to Supervisor Geraci that the HHS is part of the Town, that HHS is experiencing growth, providing to the community additional programs, and hosting more events.

President's Report:

- President Sylvia Smith spoke of a July HHS program where the presenter contacted Barbara Blum, chair of the program committee, on the day of the program to cancel due to not having a sitter. That members of the HHS offered to sit, but that the presenter never responded. Member Dan Smith was contacted and created and hosted a program presentation on bees. For saving the day on such short notice, Dan Smith was presented a lifetime membership certificate to HHS and a round of applause from all at the meeting.

- Adirondack Museum Yard Sale – Thank you to Mary Ann Hill, committee chair in charge of the Annex for a hugely successful yard sale and all of her presale work. Thank you to Melanie Fuerst and Louis Rambone for providing and setting up a tent and table at the Adirondack Community Sale so that attendees were directed to the separate Annex sale. Thank you to Diane Loika, Mary Ann Hill, Bill Ommerborn, Mary Jo and Bill Hebert, John Caruso and Bob Smith, Barbara LaFond, Camile Dougan and Barbara Blum for attending and helping the day of the sale and Kathy Hill for assisting and promoting prior to the day of the sale.
- Thank you to all museum volunteers for a successful open season to date. A few volunteer spots are sought for the Brant Lake Museum and the three remaining Food Truck Fridays (FTF), including the last FTF which is 8/29 where there will be fireworks. It was decided to postpone any historical artifact displays such as wet stone knife sharpening or hand crank clothes washing to future year FT Fridays.

Historian's Report

- Town of Horicon Historian, Colleen Murtagh was unable to attend but had emailed her report and it was presented by President Sylvia Smith, a copy is below.
- Opened office for Food Truck Friday each week, the first few weeks were rather slow, many more people this week.
- Researched and took notes on historic records loaned to my office from the Horicon Baptist Church
- Contacted Mr. Geraci concerning a leak in the roof of the Heintzelman
- Continued working on database, including making it more accessible
- Contacted Ana Williams-Bergen at North Country Radio concerning her North Country at Work program. They do interviews in May-August. She said if we let her know what would work for us, we would be the first on the list for next year. Thoughts? August?

Adirondack Yard Sale Committee

- Mary Ann Hill advised the sale was a big success. We collected \$882.50 from sales of donated items, \$117 in donations and \$50 in chair sales was received
- Great attendance and wonderful comments received about the museum displays
- Door prize was drawn for \$40 in scratch off tickets, and the winner, James Butterwaeth, was drawn from 192 ticket stubs (which represented additional visitors to the Museum who deposited their tickets in the Museum).
- Donations of 2 mannequins, a Watch Rock Hotel picture and an antique dress were committed
- Thank you to all who volunteered to make this a very fun sale and plans for 2026 are ahead

Adirondack Museum Annex Siding Project

- Mike Hill advised that the siding project phase has been completed and looks great
- He has begun seeking donations for the window/door project ahead and has received commitments

Brant Lake Museum Projects

- Sylvia Smith reported that reorganization of artifacts and storage areas is taking place accession work is ongoing with Janet Early creating a procedure for initial photos of accessioned items, an accession data sheet/notebook followed by digitization of each item and that the photography work previously done in the Adirondack Museum is next to be processed

Town of Horicon Board Liaison to the HHS

- Wayne Butler reported that he met with Supervisor, Mike Geraci and Project Manager, Mike Hill about the completion of the siding project at the Adirondack Museum Annex
- Offered his assistance to review the use of Voice over IP in place of WIFI at the Brant Lake Museum

Sunshine Committee:

- Barbara Blum reported: no cards sent

Program Committee:

- Barbara Blum reported Gary at Sunset Mtn Lodge has agreed to host a lecture on the history and tour of the facility on September 14th at 4 pm. This program will be open to the public. She and a committee will create the advertising contents and provide to the board for publication.
- Date for the HHS End of Year Volunteer Appreciation Dinner has reverted back to Wednesday, September 17, because it was the only date that all relevant parties (caterer, musicians, event space) were available. This is a members only event. Please RSVP to Sylvia Smith (sibbybob@nycaprr.com) and John Caruso (john.caruso@live.com) by Wednesday, September 10). Table arrangements will be chosen based on RSVPs.

Old Business:

- There are about 20 white chairs available for sale at \$5/each.
- Sylvia Smith reviewed the status of HHS funds currently allocated for building improvements:
 1. Original allocation of \$25,000 set aside to work with the Town of Horicon
 2. Brant Lake Museum expenses already contributed \$10,000
 3. Balance of allocated funds currently held \$15,650 as per July Treasurer's Report
- The anticipated expense of the heater/AC unit for the Adirondack Museum Annex is \$9800 and asked the HHS Board for a resolution to spend \$5,000 as the HHS 50% contribution to this project. Discussion ensued with Supervisor Mike Geraci reiterating that exteriors of the Town of Horicon owned buildings and grounds were solely the responsibility of the Town and that the HHS may be asked in the future to consider contributing 50% toward any interior projects such as heat and AC, but would not be asked to contribute towards building structures, such as windows & doors and other exterior projects. Also, the expense for electricity to run this unit was the responsibility of the Town.
- Mary Ann Hill motioned to expense up to \$5,000 of allocated funds for the heat/AC unit to be installed in the Adirondack Museum Annex for the protection of historical artifacts as per the HHS bylaws and John Caruso seconded and the motion passed with one opposing vote. The \$9,800 bid for the installation of the heat/AC unit will be in the agenda for the August 21st Horicon Town Board meeting and will now carry the resolution of the HHS to provide up to \$5,000 of allocated funds towards this project.
- CFGMR grant funds of \$1500 received for the purchase of displays have been partially expensed to the purchase of two shadow boxes for two ledger books, one for Brant Lake and one for Adirondack and that the balance of the funds will be expensed soon. The CGFMR acceptance ceremony is August 18th.

New Business:

- Acceptance and accession of new museum items:
 1. Bound Book – Adirondack Life Magazines for Adirondack Museum Annex by Kathy Morrisseau
 2. Circa 1900 sugar bowl & creamer, cup, and saucer for the Brant Lake kitchen collection by Chris Smith Hayes in memory of her great grandmother
 3. Old post cards of the Town of Horicon by Chris Smith Hayes
 4. Photos Town of Horicon: old buildings, landmarks, etc by Chris Smith Hayes
 5. Wooden carved design of the Heintzelman & Baptist Church Buildings for the Carriage House by Ricky Smith
 6. Circa 1930's French fry cutter by Curt Cleveland/Barb French
- John Caruso motioned to accept these items and Barbara LaFond seconded and the motion passed.

New Business Continued:

- North Warren Central School student tours will be scheduled once school starts
- ESSLA has requested to share use of the Adirondack Museum Annex on August 29th at 9 am for a board meeting, Ev McNeil has joined HHS as a member. Mary Ann Hill motioned, and John Caruso seconded to accept this request and the motion passed. Mary Ann Hill will host, coordinate set up of tables/chairs and provide a copy of the HHS rules and regulations to be signed by ESSLA and provide access. The museum will open to the public that day at 11 am.
- Paul's Project - Member and volunteer Paul Holmes with much help from his personal assistant and wife, Margaret, as well as Camille Dougan, is researching a 100 year span of death records from the Town of Horicon. Margaret is creating a database of this information.
- Sylvia Smith, after brainstorming with Mary Jo Hebert, presented the idea of a scavenger hunt for 2026 similar to the one being conducted by Warren County Historical Association where participants will go to each of the museum buildings to find a historical item, complete a card to be entered in a drawing.
- Barbara Blum advised that there will be a 4th consecutive year climb to the Swede Mtn. Fire Tower on Aug. 30 to "light" the fire tower. All are welcome.

Snippet:

- Mary Ann Hill presented an item left over from the garage sale to each attendee for identification prior to the meeting. Identifications provided were asparagus or pasta cooker, butterfly catching container and drink mixing container. Bob Smith was the correct identifier, and it was a nonstick pasta cooker where boiling water was poured over pasta in the plastic container which originally had a thermal sleeve. A You Tube video stated that it didn't sell very well as was discontinued. Much fun was had by all

Adjournment:

- Barbara Blum motioned, and John Caruso seconded to adjourn, and the motion carried. Next meeting, scheduled for September 8th at 6 pm at the Carriage House in Brant Lake.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Hill, Secretary