

## **Town of Horicon Historical Society (HHS) – October 6, 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes**

The Town of Horicon Historical Society October 6, 2025 monthly meeting was held at the Horicon Museum Carriage House and was called to order by President, Sylvia Smith at 6:05 pm. Board members present were Kathy Hill, Janet Early, Mary Ann Hill, Barbara LaFond, and John Caruso. Other members present were Jim Ventura, Bob Smith, Melanie Fuerst, Camille Dougan, Teri Schuerlein, Barbara Blum, Wayne Butler, Colleen Murtagh, Mary Jo Hebert, and Bill Ommerborn

### **Minutes:**

- Minutes from September 8<sup>th</sup> 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, Treasurer for editing the minutes from September
- Janet Early motioned to accept the minutes as received, and Mary Ann Hill seconded, and the motion carried

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Diane Loika presented Treasurer's reports for the months of July (revised) as well as August and September 2025. Kathy Hill motioned to accept the minutes as received, John Caruso seconded, and the motion passed. Bill Ommerborn asked what receipts made up the deposited August amount of \$2726.50 and was updated that these funds came from the Adirondack yard sale and memberships

**Mail:** no mail was reported as received

### **Town Supervisor's Report:**

- Supervisor Geraci was absent

### **President's Report:**

- Thank you to all HHS volunteers and members present on September 29<sup>th</sup> 2025, to host the NW Central School 4th grade museum tour and presentations. Pictures have been posted to the HHS website, Facebook, and Instagram pages. Thank you to the 14 volunteers who hosted this event at the Brant Lake Museum, plus thank you to all who spent time ahead of the date getting ready. Thank you to Diane Loika who created the certificates of completion for each student who attended. Cookies and drinks arrived, and the refrigerator was stocked. The student groups flowed smoothly through the presentations in all buildings on the property. A siren sounded when the students moved from one event to another. Students and teachers expressed that they had a great time, and volunteers are already looking forward to September 2026
- Kris Morehouse was the winner of the lottery ticket drawing at the Brant Lake Museum
- Three (3) windows at the Brant Lake Museum have been ordered
- The replacement windows for the Adirondack Annex have been ordered
- Sylvia contacted Adirondack Folk singer/writer Dan Bergren to confirm a 2025 program
- HHS museums shirts are in stock, please let Sylvia Smith know if you need one
- Thank you to John Caruso for his work on the boat restoration project at the Brant Lake Museum this year. The boat has been stored for Winter. Thank you to Ralph Bartlett and Rob Smith for their help with heavy lifting and storage
- Thank you to Diane Loika for her continuous work as leader on the scrap book projects including new index pages
- Thank you to Janet Early for her work on updating the accession books

- Thank you to David Tower for his work on building projects including a new roof as of October 16<sup>th</sup> on the Heintzelman Library and for moving the electrical wires on the front of the building

### **Historian's Report:**

- Working on organizing copies of the North Country Gazette
- Attended the retirement of Warrensburg Historian Sandy Parisi
- Created 10 pages of snippets for the Sunset Mtn Lodge site tour
- Now has a fireproof safe and has received Church records for safe storage
- TV installed in the Heintzelman Library ready for 2026 slide shows during Food Truck Fridays
- #179 visitors recorded during Food Truck Fridays
- Greater number of requests received for property records than family histories
- HHS is near the top of the list for NCPR 2026 reports
- Colleen's 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary as Town of Horicon Historian coming up on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2025

### **Sunshine Committee:**

- Barbara Blum reported cards sent to the family of Mary Jane Dower, Diane Loika, Camile Dougan, and Teri Schuerlein

### **Program Committee:**

- The 4<sup>th</sup> grade educational program will be scheduled again for September 2026
- Wayne Butler will contact Reuben Smith from Tumble Home Boats in Warrensburg to inquire about a vintage boat presentation including a 1903 Fay and Bowen boat from the Undermeyer Estate
- Colleen Murtagh asked for a month to be selected for the NCPR presentation and end of month July 2026 was chosen. Colleen will contact NCPR to schedule

### **Old Business:**

- CFGMR grant submission requires finalization by December 31, 2025, receipts for purchases should be given to Kathy Hill, who will finalize the follow up report
- October 25, 2025 is the Trunk or Treat event in Brant Lake. Due to no volunteers available on that date, this event will be passed for 2025
- Christmas Sale – Mary Ann Hill motioned, and John Caruso seconded, and the motion passed that this event be scheduled for Saturday August 8 2026 at the Adirondack Museum Annex during the Adirondack Yard Sale. A Winter 2025/2026 workshop will be scheduled to organize and get ready for this event
- June 2026 will be the Caro Smith renovated house tour in Brant Lake. Kathy Hill motioned, and John Caruso seconded that a budget not to exceed \$350 for framing a Peblo Hotel photo be completed prior to this event for presentation to the owners Dan and Carre Babson at the event
- Nominating Committee, positions for election will be Vice President, Treasurer and one Trustee. Barbara Lafond, Supervisor 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. Barbara LaFond will provide slates for the next meeting in November. Anyone who wishes to run should contact Nominating Committee before the November meeting. Barbara LaFond reminded all in attendance of the criteria for election being a current member in good standing, when soliciting a member to run, make sure they agree before presenting them as a nominee, the elected term is less than or equal to two consecutive two year terms and please read the by-laws for any questions

**New Business:**

- ESSLA has requested an advisory exploratory meeting with the HHS to be held at the Brant Lake Carriage House October 8th at 1 pm. They wish to discuss their plans for their July 2026 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and seek the assistance of HHS. Diane Loika, Mary Jo Hebert, Janet Early, Colleen Murtagh and Sylvia Smith volunteered to attend this meeting
- Carpet for the Brant Lake Carriage house is due at Floor Master this week and will be installed during October/November 2025
- Winter Workshop dates will be set, Janet Early will email this information

**Privilege of the Floor:**

- Melanie Fuest suggested two new programs for 2026 – Creation of a map/walking tour created in conjunction with the Warren County NY Planning Department of our two hamlets and with Grace Hudowalski, the Adirondack 46er historian who Summered in Adirondack. Colleen Murtagh added that Peggy Lynn who performs with Dan Bergren and wrote a song about Grace also be contacted. Barbara Blum advised that Grace was her 46er historian and she has all of Grace's correspondence. A committee of Barbara Blum, Colleen Murtagh, Melanie Fuerst and Sylvia Smith was created to move forward on this project.
- A lively round of comments from NWCS students followed including memories of the September 29<sup>th</sup> 2025 tour and presentations including that Paul Holmes became a history teacher again during his presentations and what a great day it was

**Adjournment:**

- Diane Loika motioned, and John Caruso seconded to adjourn, and the motion carried. Next meeting, scheduled for November 10th at the Brant Lake Town Hall at 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Hill, Secretary