

Town of Horicon Historical Society (HHS) – November 10, 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes

The Town of Horicon Historical Society November 10, 2025 monthly meeting was held at the Horicon Town Hall and was called to order by President, Sylvia Smith at 6:00 pm. Board members present were Kathy Hill, Janet Early, Mary Ann Hill, Diane Loika and John Caruso (virtual). Other members present were Jim Ventura, Bob Smith, Barbara Blum, Bill Ommerborn, and Supervisor Mike Geraci.

Minutes:

- Minutes from October 6, 2025, monthly meeting were provided to everyone by email prior to the meeting. Janet Early motioned to accept the minutes as received, and John Caruso seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

- Diane Loika presented the Treasurer's reports for the Month of October 2025. Mary Ann Hill motioned to accept the report with corrections, John Caruso seconded and the motion passed. Janet Early asked if the check in payment to Lake George Regional COC was for the 2026 term, Diane Loika confirmed that it was. Diane advised that she had closed 2025 memberships, stating she received 144 members renewed/donated, and 17 new members joined.

Mail: A second Thank you card received from the 2025 NWCS Scholarship recipients Molly Gould.

Town Supervisor's Report:

- Supervisor Geraci thanked the entire HHS for all of its hard work in 2025, and its stewardship of the Town of Horicon Buildings. On behalf of the HHS, Sylvia thanked him for his support of our organization and congratulated him on his completion of his Town Supervisory position.
- Supervisor Geraci reported that windows and doors for the Adirondack Museum Annex have arrived and installation should take place within the next couple of weeks. He noted that while in the Brant Lake Carriage House the day before, he was amazed at such a huge transformation due to adding the carpet. The temperature control and air quality of the mini split system has helped in preservation of artifacts.
- Supervisor Geraci advised that the work continues on the Heintzelman Library and that the new roof looks really beautiful.

President's Report:

- Thank you to all HHS volunteers and members for an awesome October of team activity
- Janet Early has been working fulltime to organize the accession books and hopes the project will be completed by year end 2025.
- Diane Loika has been working on social media and has updated the 2025 membership.
- Mary Jo Hebert and committee has been working on the ESSLA project of creating a profile for Adirondack in 1966, the year that ESSLA began. She has provided a report for the committee to review.
- Thank you to Jacob and Jaden Smith, Robert Smith, Bill Ommerborn, Robbie Wallace, and Mike Hill for assistance preparing for the carpeting project in the Brant Lake Carriage House. The displays were dismantled and stored, the furniture moved.
- Two stained glass window panels were donated by the owners of Stonehurst/Stoneleigh. Bill Millington, who is building the new home at this site, has offered to build frames and lighting. The HHS has also received one of the original foundation stones from this historic structure.
- Floor Master completed the installation of the new carpet in the Brant Lake Carriage House on November 5th. Their entire crew went above and beyond the normal installation to assist HHS with this project and we are very pleased with their service. Thank you to the HHS team:

Robert, Sylvia, Jacon & Jaden Smith, Mike Hill, Bill Ommerborn, Rob Wallace, Mary Ann Hill, Diane Loika, and Janet Early for starting to update the Carriage House presentation.

- David Towers is nearly finished with the work on the windows at the Brant Lake Museum main house.
- Diane Loika research a beautiful display cabinet available for sale (on Facebook marketplace, for \$100), so Sylvia & Robert Smith, Bill Ommerborn and Mary Ann Hill went to Saratoga to look and decided to buy it for the Adirondack Annex. Thanks to Mike and Dan Hill for meeting them at the Annex to help to carry the cabinet inside.
- Tom Baker contacted Sylvia and would like to donate three (3) color copies of 1833 and 1834 land grant deeds. Tom has been in the Brant Lake Museum numerous times and has strong family connections to the area. Janet Early made a motion to accept this donation and John Caruso seconded and the motion passed.
- Sylvia Smith spoke with Dan Berggren about a program for 2026. Dan and Peggy Lynn will create and provide a program of songs and stories focusing on Grace Hudowalski (the Adirondack 46'er Historian) - women in the Adirondacks and the Adirondack Environment. The program will be held on Tuesday July 28, 2026 at 7 pm for a fee of \$800 at the Horicon Community Center. Mary Ann Hill motioned to proceed with scheduling this program, Janet Early seconded and the motion passed.

Historian's Report:

- Colleen Murtagh emailed prior to the meeting that she would be absent due to a family event and advised, "I will send a report, but my month has been spent looking for 1960's information about Adirondack/East Shore Drive, both online and through my files. Nothing of any significance has been found."

Sunshine Committee:

- Barbara Blum reported sympathy cards sent to the family of Sylvia & Robert Smith, Ken Jones, and Vicki Monthony.

Program Committee:

- Wayne Butler was absent - no further update on Boat program.
- Sylvia Smith will follow up with Colleen Murtagh about 2026 scheduling with NCPR.
- Barbara Blum reported that Laurence Meltzer and Joe Millington would like to present stories and a sing along at the Brant Lake Carriage House on Sunday, August 16, 2026. This would be free to the public. Janet Early motioned and John Caruso seconded to proceed with the program and the motion passed.

Adirondack Annex Update:

- Mary Ann Hill advised that all furniture has been moved to the center of the floor to accommodate the window and door installation. Thank you, Bill Ommerborn, Mike Hill, and Mary Ann Hill.

Nominating Committee Update:

- In Barbara LaFond's absence, Mary Ann Hill advised that the committee would be prepared to provide a slate of candidates at the next meeting.

New Business:

- Sylvia Smith read aloud a notice received from the Town of Horicon regarding the mini split heaters newly installed in the Brant Lake Carriage House and the Adirondack Museum Annex – **"NO"** temperature adjustments are to be made; the settings are such to keep even

temperature while maximizing efficiency. It was noted that during installation of the windows and doors in Adirondack the unit may be turned off so not to waste heat.

- New mannequins and file cabinet was purchased and delivered to fulfill the CFGMR grant. There remains a balance to be spent prior to the wrap up at the end of 2025.
- Tickets for a lottery drawing was done in 2025 was a success, so Diane Loika will create and print tickets to be used for attending either museum or becoming a new member, to be available at our 2026 raffle. Details to be determined at a later date.
- Winter workshops will be scheduled and emailed by Janet Early. Everyone **“please”** watch your emails and get in touch to volunteer. These workshops can be attended individually when time allows and not everyone needs to attend all of them. All volunteers are greatly appreciated.

Old Business:

- ESSLA – The next meeting to present the report on Adirondack in 1966, completed by Mary Jo Hebert will be scheduled during the last week in November.
- A replacement printer is needed immediately for the office at the Carriage House. Janet Early motioned and Kathy Hill seconded to purchase a replacement printer not to exceed \$700 and the motion carried.
- A date for the Caro Smith house tour in 2026 needs to be set, Sylvia Smith will follow up on this.
- An old sound system from the Town of Horicon was offered to us, we discussed and the idea was rejected.

Privilege of the Floor: no comments

Adjournment:

- John Caruso motioned and Diane Loika seconded to adjourn, and the motion carried. Next meeting, scheduled for December 8th at 6 pm with the location to be announced.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Hill, Secretary