

Minutes from HHS Board Meeting January 15, 2026

A Board meeting was held on Thursday, January 15 at 11AM in the Carriage House. Attendees were Sylvia Smith, Mary Ann Hill, Bill Ommerborn, Diane Loika, Janet Early and John Caruso by phone. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the board and committee assignments, how committees should work in 2026 and review of a draft membership renewal letter.

The Committees in 2026 will be chaired by a Board member. The assignments will be announced at the February 9 monthly meeting.

Workshop assignments were also discussed and will be staged throughout the year. The immediate assignments will also be announced at the February 9 meeting.

Members will be encouraged to join a committee and/or workshop that interests them and matches their skill. E.g., the twins will help with the September School Day, if their work schedules permit.

Programs:

- Sylvia will try to get a date scheduled for the June open house. A framed picture needs to be arranged as a gift to the house owner.
- The August program with Joe Millington and Laurence Meltzer is scheduled for August 16.
- With the above 2 programs plus Dan Bergren on July 28, at 7PM in the Town Hall and Christmas in August sale in August 8 (please note, this is also the date of the Brant Lake Canoe Race), and the School visit in September (TBD), the HHS has a full schedule this year.

Other miscellaneous topics:

- The Riverside Gallery is closing on December 19. Mary Ann and Sylvia will form a Workshop to recommend what should be sent in for framing before it closes.
- Any cleaning projects in any of the buildings should include Vicki's input because she knows how to properly clean the artifacts.
- Membership letter proposed by Sylvia was accepted. Diane will work on formatting with the target that the letter will be ready for stuffing/ mailing by next week. She will order stamps in preparation for mailing. As was done last year, a group could get together for preparing the letter for mailing.
- It was agreed that the S. Barton stepping stone on the lawn could be moved in the spring to a more suitable and visible location, probably close to entry to Carriage House.

- Diane will prepare updated folders for distribution to members.
- It was agreed that Janet would investigate submission of a proposal for a grant to the Robert David Lion Gardiner Semi quincennial Summer Fellowship Program. Colleen, as Town Historian, has agreed to work with the student through the summer, and Sylvia will represent the Historical Society on this possible grant. One possible project – investigate the initial settlement of this area between 1775 and 1820. The first step is for SUNY to identify if there is a student who lives within our area, because room and board is not included with the grant funding, only wages for the study (150 hours through the summer), and a \$300 stipend to the Historical Society. We will be notified shortly after February 15 if there is an eligible student for the project.
- The board needs to work on how to increase volunteering for the HHS.
- Periodic board meetings are very useful in setting the direction for HHS and ensuring agreement across the board on activities. It also makes for more focused member meetings.