

Town of Horicon Historical Society (HHS) – March 9, 2026 Monthly Meeting Minutes

The Town of Horicon Historical Society March 9, 2026 monthly meeting was held at the Horicon Town Center and was called to order by President, Sylvia Smith at 6:00 pm. Board members present were Mary Ann Hill, Diane Loika, Kathy Hill, Janet Early and John Caruso via SKYPE. Other members present were Bob Smith, Horicon Supervisor Wayne Butler, Mike Hill, Barbara Blum, Louis Rambone, Historian Colleen Murtagh, Jim Ventura, and Melanie Fuerst.

Minutes:

- Minutes from February 9, 2026, monthly meeting were provided to everyone by email prior to the meeting. Janet Early made a motion to accept the minutes as received, and Mary Ann Hill seconded, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

- Diane Loika presented the Treasurer's reports for the Months of February 2026. Janet Early made a motion to accept the report as received, MaryAnn Hill seconded and the motion passed. We have received 4 new members as the membership have been coming in on a daily basis.

Mail: none

Supervisor Report: Wayne Butler

- Wayne stated that a ground wire project is being undertaken and the Brant Lake Museum and the ditch between the Heintzelman Library and the road will be filled in.

President's Report: Sylvia Smith

- Paul's Project – A 100 year review of the cause of deaths in Horicon NY has been completed and is available for viewing in the Brant Lake Museum. Thanks to Town Clerk, Krista Wood, Margaret Holmes, and Camille Dougan for their assistance to Paul.
- The article from the HHS to the Brant Laker has been submitted by Sylvia Smith and Mary Jo Hebert. A focus on a Historical Homes Series, the first being the Caro Smith home in 2026 and a call to action to other Horicon homeowners wishing to share their homes was included.
- Committee assignments were reviewed and clarified and the importance of communication between committee chairs and the board was emphasized.
- The Budget Committee will conduct its first meeting on March 16, 2026.
- Museum building updates were presented. Town councilperson, Mike Hill, advised that the Adirondack Museum Annex window project will be completed as soon as the weather allows for final trim painting to be completed. A reset of interior displays will follow soon after that. The Brant Lake Museum is undergoing a bathroom makeover. Thank you to Rob Wallace for his work on this project and thank you to Barbara Blum for volunteering to make new curtains and sink skirt to complete the update.

Historian Report: Colleen Murtagh provided updates on current research and communications.

- Family files are being organized by name, newspapers clips to files and google docs
- Marshal Seeley – a retired area auctioneer who was born in Horicon has reached out about his autobiography
- Photos of school houses loaned by Teri Hayes are being copied and compiled as well as info from Patricia Oshie Gonyo on service members from the Town of Horicon.
- A new slide scanner purchased by the Town of Horicon is available to scan slides
- Research is continuing on Camp Gibbons and the Zenoba Marsden farm on Route 8

- Amy Williams from NCPR regarding the North Country at Work interviews has contacted HHS member Colleen, pertaining to a potential event for our Society. Upon receipt of information/specifics of the program, we can confirm a July date for the event. Colleen Murtagh has agreed to chair this program once information is reviewed and approved by the HHS board.

Sunshine Committee Report:

- Cards were mailed to the following; Jim Ventura, Earl Remington, Mickey Frasier, Helen Miner, Janet Early and Bill Millington

Workshops:

- Diane Loika, Sylvia Smith, Robert Smith, and Mary Ann Hill conducted a workshop and completed tagging and pricing on some of the items that have been donated for Christmas in August
- Janet Early, Melanie Fuerst and Shellie Gautreau conducted a workshop to work on the accession inventory, completed work on the tools in the tool room and second floor of the carriage house
- Anyone wishing to work on the kitchen inventory in Brant Lake, please let Janet Early know
- Diane Loike, Mary Ann Hill, and Sylvia Smith conducted a workshop to identify and organize pictures recently donated by Christine Hayes

2026 Programs:

June 27th – Caro Smith House Tour (Dan and Carre Babson)

July 28th – Dan Berggren & Peggy Lynn (7 pm, Tuesday at Horicon Town Center)

August 8th – Christmas in August Yard Sale at the Adirondack Annex (9 am to 2 pm)

August 16th - Sing Along (Laurence Meltzer and Joe Millington) at our Carriage House

September DTD – NWCS 4th Grade Educational Tour

Old Business:

- URGENT: no changes be made to the remotes for the heating and AC units
- Due to a lack of available volunteers, the HHS will not be participating in the St Pat's Day parade
- Jim Ventura brought us up to date on the lack of historical information found for the Watering Tub site, he will create the wording to be proposed for the plaque installation at that site for the next meeting and will also create a pictorial display for the Brant Lake Museum

New Business:

- Mary Jo Hebert has agreed to chair the committee for a new Historical Homes Series
- In May, the Stoneleigh foundation stone sign will be completed by Gates Monuments and the stain glass window display from Stoneleigh will be ready for viewing in the Brant Lake Museum
- Thanks to Diane Loika for a strong new member recruiting month
- Janet Early reported that the SUNY Gardiner Fellowship available for summer of 2026 were assigned and HHS did not receive a fellowship this year because there were no students living locally in our area

- ARCH has contacted HHS and offered a gift 20 newly published books entitled: Adirondack Churches: A History of Design and Building by author Sally Svenon. Mary Ann Hill motioned and Kathy Hill seconded and the motion passed to accept this gift of books as we can use some of the volumes as a fund raiser and will donate one copy to the Horicon Library as well as having copies for review in both Museum locations. Horicon's St Paul's Church is included in the publication.

Snippet: Janet Early provided a video on her laptop of scenes from Camp Gibbons including waterfront activities with campers and counselors provided to HHS by Tim Wood, His father was a caretaker at the camp during the 1970's. This snippet will be available to view as part of the Camp Gibbons display in the Museum.

Comments from the Floor: Barbara Blum will send a thank you card to Sue Hill for the donation of the material to be used in the curtains and sink skirt in the newly remodeled Brant Lake museum bathroom.

Adjournment:

- Mary Ann Hill made a motion and Janet Early seconded and the motion passed.
- Next meeting will be May 11, 2026 at 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Hill, Secretary