

Town of Horicon Historical Society (HHS) – August 10, 2026 Monthly Meeting Minutes

The Town of Horicon Historical Society August 10, 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, Kathy Hill, Janet Early and Bill Ommerborn. Other members present were Bob Smith, Jim Ventura, Melanie Fuerst, Margaret and Paul Holmes and Historian Colleen Murtagh and new member Louise Sanantonio.

Minutes:

- Minutes from July 13, 2026, monthly meeting were provided to everyone by email prior to the meeting. Janet Early motioned to accept the minutes as received and Bill Ommerborn seconded, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

- Bill Ommerborn presented the Treasurer's report for the Month of July 2026. Kathy Hill made a motion to accept the report as received, Mary Ann Hill seconded and the motion carried.
- During the comments from the floor segment, Bill Ommerborn advised that July Treasurer's Report includes the earned interest for the certificate of deposit held by Arrow Bank.

Mail:

- Thank you cards were received from the two North Warren Central School graduating senior scholarship recipients, Owen Schaefer and Jonathon Nelson. We also received the Warren County Historical Society Newsletter and a Deed of Gift form from Mary Scinto for her donated hand-made log bookshelf and tools, accepted July 2026.

President's Report:

- Sylvia Smith welcomed new member Louise Sanantonio who joined the HHS recently.
- Food Truck Fridays - Sylvia Smith thanked all volunteers who had helped with set-up each week for this event
- NCPR – interviews were conducted July 23, 2026, from 3 to 6 pm at the Carriage House. Participants were Camille Dougan, Roger Houck, John Meade, Colleen Cleveland, Dan Smith, Abe Gadjo, Barb French, John Caruso, Colleen Murtagh and Sylvia Smith. Thanks to Colleen Murtagh for organizing this event.
- Dan Berggren and Peggy Lynn, folk singers and song writers, entertained 75 attendees on July 28, 2026, at the Horicon Community Center. Thanks to Mary Jo Hebert for flyers. A thank you note was received from Dan Berggren for the well-organized event.
- The watering tub site was visited by Bob Smith, Mike Hill and Sylvia Smith with Mike and Cliff Gates present. A stone at that location was chosen as the site for the plaque, which has been funded through a grant by the Community Fund for Gore Mountain Region. The stone will be adjusted. Changes to the wording on the plaque have been requested and the plaque is being ordered.
- The Adirondack Annex Christmas in August sale was beautifully set up inside the Museum Annex and pictures taken and posted on-line. Thank you to Mary Ann Hill and all volunteers that assisted. Mary Ann Hill suggested that the 2027 sale theme be changed. This will be discussed at a later date.

Historian's Report:

- Colleen Murtagh reported that the Heintzleman Library has been open for each week of Food Truck Friday.

- Three power point presentations have been created. Topics include: the Horicon School, Around the Mill Pond, A High Peaks Hiking Group of the Carpenter and West families. These presentations are running on the TV in the Heintzleman Library.
- The NCPR interviews were very successful and positive comments were received back from the interviewers.
- Requests for historical information were received from: parties interested in the Shaw/Reese Estate on Shaw Hill Road in Adirondack; a party interested in the Jingling Spurs Dude Ranch in Adirondack; potential buyers of The Wells House in Pottersville; and a request from an Adirondack Life author seeking family background information from our area.
- Interest in large format copies of microfilmed records that have been received is being investigated.

Old Business:

- August 16, 2026, Sing-Along with Laurence Meltzer – Thanks to John Caruso for prepping the music sheets. Volunteers should wear their HHS logo shirts and set up has been planned.
- Videotaping of the upstairs rooms at the Brant Lake Museum by Margaret Holmes is proceeding. Margaret will start with the School Room, featuring HHS member Jaden Smith narrating.

New Business:

- A paper/office supplies order is being put together by Sylvia Smith and Bill Ommerborn will place the order.
- Donations considered were:
 - Storage cabinet by Barbara Blum – After discussion, Kathy Hill motioned and Bill Ommerborn seconded and the motion passed to table this vote until more information on the item can be provided.
 - A large wood stove by Mary Gardiner – After discussion, Kathy Hill motioned and Mary Ann Hill seconded to decline this offer of donation as HHS already has a wood stove in Brant Lake. Janet Early will call the donor to advise.
- The date for the HHS Staff Dinner has been set for Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at Sunset Mountain Lodge with attendees to RSVP by September 10, 2026. John Caruso is chairing this event.
- The NWCS fourth grade class will be touring the Brant Lake Museum on Friday, September 11, 2026, with September 16, 2026, as a backup date.
- Sylvia Smith is seeking assistance from NWCS to create a tour for an older group of students.

Comments from the Floor:

- Mary Ann Hill met a visitor at the Adirondack Museum Annex who has a connection to the Watervliet Arsenal. A museum of bells is being created at the Arsenal to display bells from the region which were created at the Arsenal. She suggested that it should be determined if the Annex bell was made at the Arsenal and if it was, then we get a picture of the Annex bell that can be used in the Arsenal Museum.
- Paul Holmes provided several suggestions for future recruiting. Sylvia Smith advised that a brainstorming session on the direction of the Museum, as well as recruiting, was to be scheduled in the near future. Discussion followed about the feasibility of having a table at the Chestertown Farmers Market as a possible resource for HHS recruiting.

2026 Programs:

- August 16th - Sing-Along with Laurence Meltzer and friends at Carriage House at 3 pm
- September 11th – NWCS 4th Grade Educational Tour in Brant Lake
- September 22 – HHS Staff Dinner Sunset Mtn Lodge

Adjournment:

- Janet Early made a motion to adjourn and Mary Ann Hill seconded and the motion passed.

Next Meeting:

- Next HHS meeting will be Monday, September 14, 2026, at 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Hill, Secretary