

Town of Horicon Historical Society (HHS) – July 13, 2026 Monthly Meeting Minutes

The Town of Horicon Historical Society July 13, 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, Bill Ommerborn and John Caruso. Other members present were Bob Smith, Barbara LaFond, Jim Ventura, Camille Dougan, Teri Schuerlein, Karli Wood, Supervisor Wayne Butler, Jacob Smith, Melanie Fuerst, Jaden Smith and Mary Jo Hebert.

Minutes:

- Minutes from June 8, 2026, 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, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

- Bill Ommerborn presented the Treasurer's reports for the Month June 2026. Mary Ann Hill made a motion to accept the report as received, Janet Early seconded and the motion carried. John Caruso motioned to accept the report.

Mail: North Warren Central School Scholarship Committee thanking HHS for their scholarship donations for two graduating seniors. 2026 Senior recipients were Owen Schaefer and Jonathan Nelson.

A six-month renewal with a rate at 3.27% for the Arrow Bank certificate of deposit was received. Mary Ann Hill motioned and Kathy Hill seconded to renew this certificate of deposit and the motion carried.

Supervisor Report: Wayne Butler – reported that he was receiving positive feedback regarding the work being done by HHS and acknowledged the work being done by Horicon Council Member, Mike Hill, now working directly with the Parks and Recreation Department.

President's Report: Sylvia Smith

- Sylvia Smith opened the meeting with a nod to new member in attendance Karli Wood and praised existing members Jacob and Jaden Smith for their participation. Sylvia encouraged all members to seek more young community members.
- President Sylvia Smith advised she had submitted her monthly HHS report to the Town.
- She reported on a new program being supported by the Warren County Historical Society, "The Many Lives of Theodore Roosevelt", 125th Anniversary of his presidency with dates for speakers at the Tannery Pond Center in North Creek. Kathy Hill suggested that any information like this that can be reposted to social media platforms would be helpful in attracting new visitors to our museums. Mary Jo Hebert agreed and will work with Diane Loika and Janet Early to post on our sites and web site.
- A framed picture of the Horicon School student body circa 1938 was accepted into our collection, donated by Stephen Sheward, grandson of Pete Monroe. It was agreed that this picture would be displayed in the Horicon Town Hall. The Museum already has a smaller version of this picture on display.
- The CFGMR grant application was successful with \$1850 being approved for the Watering Tub plaque with link to the HHS website.
- The museums opened on time on June 30th. Thanks to Vicki Monthony for cleaning the Brant Lake Museum; Mike Hill and Mary Ann Hill for getting the Adirondack Museum Annex ready;

Rob Wallace and crew of Horicon Parks and Rec and Robert, Jacob and Jaden Smith for their assistance and carpentry skills in assisting with new displays.

Historian's Report:

- Colleen was sick and not available for tonight's meeting.

Events Committee Report:

- Caro Smith House Tour June 27 – Mary Jo Hebert reported that the event was very well attended with over 70 visitors. Most visitors remained and chatted for the entire time of the open house. \$110 was received in donations and a new membership was received. Thanks to all volunteers for their efforts before, during and after this event. Sylvia thanks Mary Jo for all her efforts in organizing this House Tour, and all the volunteers who participated in making it a success.
- NCPR program North Country at Work – Historian Colleen Murtagh, Sylvia Smith and John Caruso will be assisting NCPR to schedule and conduct interviews at the Brant Lake Museum from 3 to 6 pm on July 23rd, 2026. Videos will be available afterwards.
- July 28 – Dan Berggren and Peggy Lynn will be performing in the Horicon Community Center. HHS flyers and handouts will be available (Mary Jo to gather these materials). HHS member volunteers are requested for this program to set up and greet attendees. A full house is anticipated.

Old Business:

- Barbara Blum is installing the sink skirts in both museums.
- Videotaping of the Brant Lake Museum second floors is planned so that those that can't access the second floor can enjoy the displays as well as video postings to our social media platforms. Margaret Holmes has agreed to video. Different volunteer voices are sought for each room to provide interest and diversity; anyone who wishes to participate should contact Sylvia Smith.

New Business:

- Methods to increase museum attendance were requested by Sylvia Smith and discussion followed to consider having a sale table at the Brant Lake Museum of books and artifacts that are duplicates. Perhaps calling Museum Tours a "House Tour" would encourage more casual visitors. Roadside signs indicating "House Tours" can be set out on open days.
- Mary Ann Hill motioned, John Caruso seconded and the motion passed to make available for sale a white church pew style bench.
- A donation by Mary Scinto of a unique bit and brace, with ratchet mechanism, and adjustable bit for making large round cutouts and a handcrafted bench made from a single log was motioned to be accepted by Bill Ommerborn and seconded by John Caruso and the motion carried.
- A donation of 3 different pictures of from the 1960's showing the new Adirondack Northway coming through by Earl Parshall was motioned to be accepted by John Caruso and seconded by Mary Ann Hill and the motion carried.
- John Caruso motioned and Mary Ann Hill seconded to approve the purchase of a second tent to be used at Food Truck Fridays, and a microwave for the Brant Lake Museum, not to exceed a total of \$350 and the motion carried. In addition, Sylvia will buy 4 wigs for \$10 each for the mannequins.

- John Caruso advised that the Adirondack Museum Annex open hours on the HHS website need to be corrected to show Thursday, Friday and Saturday openings.
- Sylvia Smith shared a conversation that she and Karli Wood had about taping the porch stories being told by museum volunteers and visitors during open hours as a great suggestion.
- Additional volunteers at the HHS booth at Food Truck Fridays are requested.

Comments from the Floor: Camille Dougan presented for donation a memory box containing badges, bible, New Testament, etc. of A. Martin and an American Legion uniform attributed to A. G. Martin found by Teri and Paul Schuerlein in the former home of Frank White, Route 8, Brant Lake that they are cleaning out. John Caruso motioned, Janet Early seconded and the motion to accept this donation carried

2026 Programs:

July 23rd – NCPR Interviews at the Carriage House starting at 3 pm

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

August 8th – Christmas in August Yard Sale at the Adirondack Annex starting 9 am

August 16th - Sing Along with Laurence Meltzer and Joe Millington) at Carriage House at 3 pm

September TBD – NWCS 4th Grade Educational Tour

Museum Hours:

Adirondack Annex – Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 11 am to 3 pm

Horicon Museum – Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday 11 am to 3 pm

Food Truck Fridays – 4:30 pm to 8 pm

Adjournment:

- Bill Ommerborn motioned and Mary Ann Hill seconded and the motion passed meeting will be August 10, 2026 at 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Hill, Secretary