

## **Gilboa Historical Society Board of Directors February 22, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. Present were: Lee Hudson, Linda Karlsen, Christl Riedman, Val Riedman, Michael Shiffer, Gerry Stoner, Ellen Thorn, Kristen Wyckoff\* (\*via phone)

### **Mission and Vision Statements**

The board voted (motion by Michael; second by Kristen) to adopt the following statements:

***Mission statement:*** The Gilboa Historical Society is a rural community service organization that provides educational, historical, preservation, and social services to promote and invigorate the Gilboa community. In the Gilboa Museum and Nicholas J. Juried History Center we provide events, exhibits, reference resources, and a community gathering space to engage residents and visitors of all ages in Gilboa's extraordinary past. We are also committed to the careful collection and preservation of Gilboa artifacts that reveal the past while encouraging present-day perspectives on Gilboa's substantial contributions to natural and human history.

***Vision statement:*** The Gilboa Historical Society features our town identity through its extraordinary history. It builds relationships within the community and fosters a curiosity and understanding of the past's impact on the present through the knowledge provided by individual and collective experiences.

### **Discussions relating to construction**

Lee reminded the board that Tal Rappleyea, Esq. should be kept in the loop about all discussions and progress related to potential GHS purchase of Town property.

Lee, Michael, Linda S\* (\*via phone), and Gerry met to discuss Town Supervisor Alesia Terry's plans for the potential sale of Town property; and they will set up a meeting with Terry to discuss more specific scheduling and task responsibilities for each party. Other items for discussion include alternative access from Stryker Road to reduce landscape disruption, alternative parking plans, septic field encroachment, drainage of salt water effluent from the Town's garage, location of well and associated plumbing and electric requirements, use of hydrant near pavilion, and easement connecting the drive west of the salt shed to the gravel drive.

## **President's report (Gerry)**

Gerry met with Nelta Miller prior to the board meeting, to review progress of the Gift Shop inventory. Good progress is being made on filling in the spreadsheet information, which will help us determine how profitable the store is in its various categories of merchandise.

Gerry reported that John Milgrim, the NYC DEP Outreach Director, will speak at our March 15 general meeting, to inform attendees about the renovation work and upcoming Reservoir Overlook, the new underground water release tunnels, plans for visitors to the renovated Schoharie Reservoir and dam, and changes on downstream water release protocols. He will also describe facility access for hiking, fishing, and kayaking, and the odds for an additional boat access on the east side of the reservoir (near Clark's Restaurant, which is projected to reopen this spring).

Gerry encourages spreading the word to interested parties to attend our March 15 meeting; further outreach and potential benefits are possible from the DEP if it sees the public's active interest in its activities. And expanding attendance at our meetings encourages increased Society membership and participation.

Gerry also reported that Andy Garrison, director of the Long Path association, plans to attend the Town Board meeting on March 13, and show the Long Path's preferred new map that follows the old Stryker Road before coming out of the woods onto property GHS is planning to buy. Signs for a spur will lead hikers to the pavilion and then across the field to the Cidery and on to Nickerson's campground. The Long Path people agreed to speak at one of our general membership meetings and have offered to hold an opening ceremony and ribbon cutting at the pavilion this summer. Encouraging hikers to use the section of the Long Path in Gilboa is another potential way to increase visitors to our area.

Jefferson Historical Society has prepared an impressive 2022 Annual Report (70 pages) that it has shared with us. Let me know if you want an electronic copy of the pdf.

With so many plans and projects in the works, it would be helpful to have a To-Do List for actions and activities in the next month.

The board voted (motion by Christl; second by Linda K) to approve the report.

## **Secretary's report (Ellen)**

Ellen prepared and distributed minutes from last month for review, approval, and posting. The board voted (motion by Gerry; second by Michael) to approve the February 1 minutes.

Ellen continues to incorporate changes and additions to the working calendar and to distribute it in advance of the Board meetings.

## Treasurer's report (Michael)

Michael provided the bank statement year-to-date through January 2023. Propane, insurance, electric, and telephone were paid (by check or debit). Interest earned on the Savings account through January is \$39,44.

Balances for each account as of **January 31, 2023**:

- Checking (account ending #7602) = \$ 4,703.68
  - Savings (MMA [Construction] (account ending #3502) = \$464,427.91
  - *Catskill Tri-County Historical Views* (account ending #4542) = \$ 8,033.46
  - Fundraising (checking account ending #2298) = \$ 7,133.85
- \$484,298.90

Michael also prepared a spreadsheet that included 2021 budget versus actual and 2022 budget versus actual, which would be the basis for a forthcoming 2023 budget projection.

Michael included several notes along with his 2021 and 2022 summaries.

- Donations from the Nicholas J. Juried Family Foundation included \$400,000 for an addition to the museum plus \$6,800 (\$2,500 for scholarships, \$3,000 for the Cidery, and \$1,300 for supporting a Schoharie County awards event).

- Catskill Tri-County Historical Views ran a \$10,200 loss in 2022, in part because of higher production costs and in part due to lower donations earmarked for the magazine. (Selling back issues and discontinuing publication will reduce this cost.)

- Advertising expenses were higher than expected.
- Heating costs were higher than expected.
- With the potential purchase and ownership of the facilities, GHS insurance, maintenance, utilities, repairs and other costs are likely increase significantly. The additional space being planned will also add to increased ongoing costs. We will need to add to current revenue streams and explore new ones if we are to continue to exist. We estimate that we will need \$10,000 more each year.

The board voted (motion by Gerry; second by Christl) to give Michael the authority to transfer some funds into a 6- or 12-month CD, which is likely to provide a higher yield. We're not likely to need access to this cash sooner.

Kristen proposed an alumni outreach to cover our overhead; and she'll reach out to Phoebe for advice and help. Linda S will look into grant opportunities. Lee will go through the Town's line items to see if we can tailor or modify GHS activities to align with funding items earmarked by the Town. Linda K said our vendor fees are in line with others in the area; and that at this time we have no room for additional vendors; but we could ask vendors for donations of their wares, which we could then auction off at a shopping bag auction or other events. We must also be more diligent about encouraging visitors to donate; we do not want to charge an entrance fee.

The board voted (motion by Linda K; second by Christl) to approve the report.

## **Committee reports**

### **Fundraising (Linda K)**

#### **Museum gift shop and tour guides (Nelta)**

Gerry met with Nelta to review the gift shop inventory database. Sales slips must be reviewed regularly so that the database can be maintained; Nelta will set up and manage this monthly operation.

The board discussed the job titles of Museum Director and Assistant Museum Director, and voted (motion by Christl; second by Linda K) to change Nelta's job title to Museum Manager and for her to manage the gift shop and the tour guides. Nelta should have her own business cards, which she will be asked to design and order. The bylaws should be updated to accommodate this change.

#### **Museum exhibitions (Kristen)**

Lee has confirmed that artist Clover Archer will present her Stryker family geneology display on July 22 at 1 p.m.

Michael is repairing the cylinder music box, after which we might organize a dance party focusing on it.

#### **Physical facilities (Mike, Gerry, Val, Vincent Acocella)**

Gerry will speak to Lester Parker about the meter box.

The agricultural equipment shed may need to be painted before much longer.

The bush near the air-conditioner compressor must be removed; Kristen will contact Gardens by Trista.

Landscaping signage and tree condition need updated review and repair.

The drum we use for raffle tickets is in disrepair; Michael is rebuilding it.

## **Marketing**

### **Programs (Kristen)**

#### **Publications (Gerry, Lee)**

Because so much of our population does not use electronic media very much (or at all), it is essential that we communicate with our members and promote potential patrons through print media.

### **Refreshments (Janette)**

#### **Collection Management (Linda S, Ellen)**

Michael came across some 1976 newspaper articles while he worked on fixing the museum's old cylinder music box. Ellen will scan these papers for archival and perusal purposes. Linda K recommended the Quarterlies format.

**Education (Kristen)**

Several school group tours are being scheduled. See calendar for details.

We've had some geocaching activity outside the museum, but we have not encouraged it lately. We should confirm that material needed is up-to-date.

**Finance (Linda S)****Grant-writing (Linda K, Nelta)****Membership (Gerry)****Nominations (Linda K, Kristen)****Policies (Linda S)****Public Relations**

*Adjournment:* The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. (motion by Christl; second by Linda K)

*Next Board meeting* is scheduled for March 22, at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn  
Board Secretary