

**Gilboa Historical Society
Board of Directors
April 26, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. Present were: Lee Hudson, Linda Karlsen, Connie Ruelhe, Michael Shiffer, Gerry Stoner, Linda Stratigos, Ellen Thorn; Kristen Wyckoff

Discussions relating to construction

Lee reported that our attorney, Tal Rappleyea, has made multiple efforts to reach the Town Supervisor and Town Attorney regarding the negotiations for sale, lease renewal and lack of promised response to Gerry's 3/6 email to Supervisor Alicia Terry. Tal's calls and messages have not been returned and his immediate recommendation was to take a statement at the next Town Board meeting. There has been no mention of the lease in the Town Board Minutes since August 2022. And there has been no further word about replacing the 2022 expired one-year lease.

Gilboa Town Resolution #44-2022, passed in October 2022, resolved that the Town will not allow the development of further capital improvements by GHS on lands owned by the Town of Gilboa. While we don't want construction to interfere with our busy open season, we're hoping to at least get plans approved so we can break ground before the 2023 construction season ends!

At Town board meetings, Gerry invariably asks if any progress is being made and if a schedule can be projected. Supervisor Alicia Terry invariably responds that such board discussion should be moved up on her list of priorities. We had hoped to make some progress before yet another year passes us by!

Michael asked Lee to review the Town budget to see what budget items could potentially be related to GHS activity.

President's report

Gerry reported that Nick Juried donated 400 copies of his book, *As I Remember Things, 2/e*, which he is storing in his garage. Nick has donated all money raised through sale of these to GHS.

Gerry reported on arrangements that are being made to co-market and co-sponsor events and activities with our neighbor, the Cidery. Other possible co-sponsored events may involve Conesville's 250th birthday celebration; and joint ventures with local campgrounds and area B&Bs. Plans have already been made for the Schoharie Turnpike Road Rally to visit again this June.

Gerry ordered a third small printing (50 copies) of Stein's *The Catskill Fossil*

Forest with ISBNs and corrections inserted. He also reported on interest from a bookseller in the UK to sell copies of the Stein's *The Catskill Fossil Forest*. After researching the costs involved in shipping copies across the pond, arrangements are being considered for printing overseas for the European market.

The board voted (motion by Kristen; second by Michael) to approve the report.

Secretary's report

Ellen prepared and distributed minutes from last month for review, approval, and posting. The board voted to approve the March 22 minutes (motion by Kristen; second by Linda K).

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 provided the NBT bank statement year-to-date through March 2023. Propane, electric, and telephone were paid, among other payments. Interest earned on the Savings account through March is \$71.11.

Balances for each account as of March 31, 2023:

• Checking (account ending #7602)	\$ 3,482.82
• Savings (MMA account ending #3502)	\$ 39,459.58
• <i>Catskill Tri-County Historical Views</i> (account ending #4542)	\$ 7,972.75
• Fundraising (checking account ending #2298)	\$ <u>2,133.85</u>
	\$ 53,049.00
• CD 9349 matures 12/23/2023	\$401,304.11

As of April 26, 2023, Michael reported the following totals:

• Checking (account ending #7602)	\$ 4,068.93
• Savings (MMA account ending #3502)	\$ 39,459.58
• <i>Catskill Tri-County Historical Views</i> (account ending #4542)	\$ 8,947.09
• Fundraising (checking account ending #2298)	\$ <u>2,133.85</u>
	\$ 54,609.45
• CD 9349 matures 12/23/2023	\$402,752.65
• CD (not on March bank statement)	\$ <u>50,180.48</u>
	\$452,933.13

A budget spreadsheet will be prepared that includes the 2023 year-to-date actual and the 2023 budget figures.

Michael is looking into NYCON (New York Council on Nonprofits) to explore what benefits there may be in getting a museum charter — so we'd be recognized

as a museum as well as a historical society — and if this would expand our grant opportunities.

Michael is arranging to get a debit card from NBT for Nelta.

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

Committee reports

Fundraising

The board agreed to hold a 50-50 raffle in lieu of a basket-of-cheer raffle or a raffle for a collection of lottery tickets. This raffle will continue to amass funds through much of the summer season.

Kristen will work on soliciting donations from local alumni. She also expressed support of having a historic music evening event.

Legacy plaques: Lee circulated a draft of a new brochure promoting the plaque sales program. Following several suggestions, the brochure was approved. Each plaque costs \$44.50. We will sell for: \$250 under heritage families; \$150 under memorials; and \$150 under sponsor as outlined in the brochure. The board approved (motion by Kristen; second by Linda K).

Museum, gift shop, and tour guides

Tours on call has been very popular. Several families and small groups of friends have called to visit the museum and/or make gift shop purchases and donations. All seem to enjoy sharing our history and learning about others' experiences.

The board voted (motion by Kristin; second by Linda K) to change Nelta's job title to Museum Director. Nelta will arrange for training tour guides, including the Roxbury science teachers, and managing the gift shop.

No scholarships will be awarded this year.

Kristen has been sending letters home with schoolchildren to encourage students to volunteer and get involved with the Society.

Books, toys, stuffed animals, fossils, minerals, and some jewelry have been ordered, priced, and displayed in the gift shop.

Spencer Thompson's company, from which we purchase fossils and minerals, has donated 100 Mosasaurus tooth fossils for gifting to the students and teachers who come on class tours.

Amy Sternstein has some fossils and minerals for sale and to donate to the gift shop; arrangements need to be made for this inventory.

A scanner/printer will be set up to help copy invoices, track inventory, and otherwise improve the gift shop workflow.

Gerry has display boxes for the wall of the gift shop to display all ten individual issues of *Historical Views*, which are priced at \$8. Lee has also made 10-pack packages, which are priced at \$45.

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

Museum exhibitions

Gerry has been working with Kristen and Michael, and with input from Stein author team, to prepare a mockup of the revised panels for the natural science exhibit wall. These panels will include information about the 21st century work in Cairo and Conesville and the Gilboa fossil history. The 3D printing of the New York State artifact will be attached to the poster.

Facilities

The board approved (motion by Linda K; second by Linda S) to rent an ADA-compliant portable toilet from Fred's for \$125 monthly as of June 1. Kristen will call to see if it can be available over the Memorial Day weekend for the Reggie Harris concert on May 27.

Michael has made key duplicates for those who need them and removed the key ring that had been housed outside the museum. There are keys for the museum, the display cases, donation box, pavilion electric, agricultural shed, and the storage shed we bought from Dottie.

Gerry had Hank Goeckle come to work on the porch lighting and to determine the status of the electric at the meter into the museum.

Gardens by Trista removed the lilac blocking the AC compressor.

Mohawk Heating was called for regular maintenance of the AC.

Public Relations

Lee proposed a mailing to all taxpayers in Gilboa (and maybe extended to Conesville), inviting them to attend events planned to be held throughout our season, to become GHS members, and to purchase legacy plaques for the porch, to be hung outside on the western wall.

Adjournment: Meeting ended at 3:10 p.m. (motion by Linda S; second by Linda K)

Upcoming meetings

May 17, at 6 p.m.: General meeting: T.M. Bradshaw to talk about local artist Lamont Warner

May 24, at 1 p.m.: Board meeting

May 27 at noon: Museum Season opens, with Reggie Harris performing at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn
Board Secretary