

**Gilboa Historical Society**  
**Board of Directors**  
**May 24, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. Present were: Lee Hudson, Linda Karlsen, Christl Riedman, Val Riedman, Michael Shiffer, Gerry Stoner, Linda Stratigos (left at 2 p.m.), Ellen Thorn; not present: Janette Reynolds, Connie Ruehle, Kristen Wyckoff

### **Discussions relating to construction**

Since we'd like to begin construction in October — after our major summer season and before construction must be shut down for the winter months — we want to get a meeting set up with the Town Board as soon as possible. Possibly our attorney, Tal Rappleyea, who Lee has reported has made multiple efforts to reach the Town Supervisor and Town Attorney regarding the negotiations for sale and lease renewal, would be able to attend or participate via Zoom. We are hoping to at least get plans approved so we can break ground in 2023. The Town Planning Board cannot approve plans unless submitted by the property owner, although preliminary plans presented to and discussed at Planning Board meetings have produced positive feedback.

The Town is creating a new driveway, parking lot, and well/water system using ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds before sale of the property to the Historical Society. We are concerned that this money might be applied to other purposes or reclaimed by ARPA if not spent in a timely manner.

There has been no further word about renewing the 2022 expired one-year lease and no mention of that lease in the Town Board Minutes since August 2022.

### **President's report**

Gerry reported that help is needed with social media and other promotional and advertising efforts. It's possible someone at the neighboring Cidery, with whom we're co-marketing and co-sponsoring some activities, could provide the expertise we lack. Another possibility is a local student who has done some website work for us. We'll want to consider selling ads on our websites. And we'll want to consider tighter coordination and navigation between our websites.

The Town Board is concerned about potential liability if it allows use of any of its property to visitors to the Long Path. Supervisor Terry said the new owners of Nickerson's Campground are also concerned and intend to try to limit access.

Gerry attended the grand opening of the Nicholas J. Juried Museum of Jefferson History, the new museum in Judd Hall in Jefferson, on May 19 and found the

displays interesting and informative. And the elevator is a treat for aging knees! It's certainly worth a visit.

The board voted (motion by Lee; 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 April minutes (motion by Lee; second by Michael).

Ellen continues to update the working calendar as details are fed to her.

Ellen compiled a list of board members and their contact information.

### Treasurer's report

Michael provided the NBT bank statement year-to-date through April 2023. Propane, electric, and telephone were paid, among other payments. Interest earned on the Savings account through April is \$79.87.

The NBT bank balances as of April 30, 2023 were:

• Checking (account ending #7602)	\$ 3,607.44
• Savings (MMA account ending #3502)	\$ 39,468.34
• <i>Catskill Tri-County Historical Views</i> (account ending #4542)	\$ 8,187.09
• Fundraising (checking account ending #2298)	\$ <u>2,133.85</u>
	<b>\$ 53,396.72</b>

In addition, the bank is holding the following CDs:

• CD 9349 matures 12/23/2023	\$402,752.65
• CD 0290 (10 month); undated statement	\$ 50,355.77

Michael arranged for Ellen to receive P&L statements for inclusion in the minutes. Total income through April was \$33,089.83. Total expense through April was \$13,169.58.

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

There is still a problem with the debit card from NBT that Michael is arranging to get for Nelta.

Bills from advertising in the Mt Eagle are still to come.

The board approved paying Tony Manzanero's accounting firm \$3,500 to review GHS taxes for 2022, in which our income exceeded \$250,000 (motion by Michael; second by Linda S).

We received \$5,000 from the Juried Family Foundation for co-advertising with the Cidery; the board approved this expense (motion by Gerry; second by Christl; opposed by Linda S).

## Committee reports

### Bylaws

Michael pointed out that there needs to be an update in the bylaws relating to the tasks of the treasurer. Ellen also has collected a few additional changes. She will distribute with changes highlighted for board review and approval and for presentation to the general membership as required.

### Facilities

The ADA-compliant portable toilet from Fred's was delivered in advance of the May 27 concert.

Gerry provided Michael with a tabloid-sized map locating and identifying all of the memorial trees and plantings.

The ladder's joints have been tightened to make it more secure.

Some ceiling light bulbs have been replaced.

HVAC was cleaned and serviced.

### Fundraising

*Legacy plaques:* Lee circulated the new brochure promoting the plaque sales program. We printed 2,000, some of which we'll mail to all of Gilboa, Conesville, and Grand Gorge. Mailing to include a cover letter, brochure, membership application, and schedule of upcoming activities. Linda K to get price for labels, Gerry to get price for mailing.

*Membership form:* The board discussed and decided (motion by Michael; second by Christl) to amend the membership form to remove many of the choices provided for use of donated funds, since we're not tracking line items in that detail. Also, we agreed (motion by Lee; second by Ellen) to include a statement that all new Lifetime members are entitled to a set of *Historical Views* or another promotional item. (This wording does not commit GHS to mailing costs.)

*Antique car:* Michael suggested we get an antique car to advertise our presence around town, in parades, as a billboard, for community jaunts, etc. We can't justify a 1922 Studebaker, but Michael has a colleague who will lend us a 1935 Ford Woody if only we can store it. Directors thought it would be great fun. Michael will explore possible storage units.

### Membership

Gerry provided an updated membership list and summarized:

Total memberships = 305;

Total lifetime memberships = 121

Total annual memberships = 184

Total households = 239

Total lifetime households = 127

Total annual households = 112

### **Museum, gift shop, and tour guides**

Connie Bates will update gift shop inventory from sales slips.

The board will see samples of mugs, tees, and jerseys before they're ordered.

Jewelry and stuffed animals are in stock.

New plastic display holders for data / tourist cards have replaced the previous holders on the foyer wall.

Linda K delivered some boxes of fossils and rocks from Amy Sternstein for sale in the gift shop after Kristen categorizes them and prices them.

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

### **Old business**

#### **Museum charter**

Michael provided a written report on his research looking into NYCON (New York Council on Nonprofits) to see what benefits there may be in getting a museum charter. He concludes that getting a museum charter doesn't offer "enough value to GHS to offset the cost and disruption it would entail"; and strongly recommends "we not pursue this any further."

#### **Give 'n' Take Book Swap**

We're building a roof over the metal folding chairs on the pavilion that will support a "tiny free library" between two posts. A private donation from the Stamford Library provided an initial supply of books.

### **New business**

#### **Master Plan committee**

Michael proposed a new committee based on the dramatic change in the scope of the society. This Master Plan committee would take into consideration more services, owned facilities, higher costs, increased visitors, broader management, larger collections, greater community involvement, and more specific goals. The committee would explore what growth will do for us and what it will require of us, so that it may present to the board a set of plans that outline costs and benefits of pursuing each goal. He suggested the committee members represent a cross-section of earliest and newer members, be chaired by Ellen, and be invited to serve (motion by Lee; second by Michael); the proposal passed.

**Adjournment:** Meeting ended at 3:33 p.m. (motion by Linda K; second by Michael)

## **Upcoming meetings**

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

June 10: Gilboafest and Schoharie Turnpike Road Rally

June 21, at 6 p.m.: Shopping Bag auction

June 28, at 1 p.m.: Board meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn

Board Secretary