

**Gilboa Historical Society
Board of Directors
June 28, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. Present were: Lee Hudson, Linda Karlsen, Christl Riedman, Val Riedman, Michael Shiffer, Gerry Stoner, Linda Stratigos, Ellen Thorn, Kristen Wyckoff; not present: Janette Reynolds, Connie Ruehle

Discussions relating to construction

It sounds as though we'll be making progress toward a transfer of property. According to our attorney, Tal Rappleyea, who will handle the transfer paperwork (title, abstract, deed), for the society, the Town insistence for a separate driveway entrance and a well — at Town expense — has been put on hold; and these items can be addressed after the sale.

The Town says that it will need an appraisal for tax purposes, even though it won't reflect the actual sale price.

Town Supervisor Alicia Terry said she has reached out to several appraisers to get quotes and that she'll report back to the Town board in July. She reported that Town attorney Joanne Crum and Society attorney Rappleyea have been in touch to work on a purchase contract.

The 2022 one-year lease has expired and there has been no further word about a renewal, so there is no current document currently in effect.

President's report

Gerry reported that Kevin Berner, president of Jefferson Historical Society, invited us to visit their new museum in Judd Hall. They just had its grand opening. He wondered if we may want to exchange field trips or meetings with this active local group. We already have a summer field trip scheduled for the Best House in Middleburgh, but visiting Judd Hall would be both interesting and supportive. We can go as individuals or as a group.

If our purchase of property from the Town goes through, we can anticipate an additional \$10,000 – 12,000 expense per year. We need to expand our marketing expertise by reaching out to local resources that can provide the promotional experience and professional knowledge we lack.

Linda K will arrange a meeting with Bobbi Ryan, of Cleverly Crafted marketing and events planning; she is a well-known and well-respected marketing person in Middleburgh who is likely to provide professional services to meet our needs.

We also need to work on ideas of how to expand fundraising strategic planning.

Kristen, Linda S, Linda K, and Michael will form a committee with this end.

Kristen asked for assistance in reaching out to the Gilboa-Conesville central school alumni.

The board voted (motion by Michael; second by Linda K) 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 May minutes (motion by Linda S; second by Linda K).

Minutes for all of 2022 and through May of 2023 have been created and are posted on the website.

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

Treasurer's report

Michael provided the NBT bank statement balances ending May 31, 2023.

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|--|---------------------|
| • Checking (account ending #7602) | \$ 7,497.74 |
| • Savings (MMA account ending #3502) | \$ 39,543.76 |
| • <i>Catskill Tri-County Historical Views</i> (account ending #4542) | \$ 8,316.09 |
| • Fundraising (checking account ending #2298) | \$ <u>2,133.85</u> |
| | \$ 57,491.44 |

In addition, the bank is holding the following CD:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • CD 9349 matures 12/23/2023 | \$404,159.53 |
| • (10-month CD 0290 not included in bank's report) | |

Interest earned, year-to-date (through May) on MMA #3502 = \$155.29.

Total assets, as of June 28 = \$510,432.46.

Expenses for discussion:

- Book swap: We now have built a "tiny free library" between two posts on the pavilion as a roof over the metal folding chairs. The cost for materials had been approved but labor exceeded the estimate and Michael wanted to know if the Society would reimburse the expense. Ellen offered to eat the cost, since the book swap was initially her idea. The board reluctantly approved (motion by Kristen; second by Christl) to pay the bill but with a reminder that expenses must be approved in advance.

- Gift shop lighting: The back wall of the gift shop is dim. Michael suggested purchasing a string of lights for \$100 to brighten it up. The board voted (motion by Michael; second by Kristen) to approve the expense.

- Board members have a fiduciary responsibility so need to see 2023 year-to-date income and expenses against budget spreadsheet that provides actual amounts for identified line items.

The board voted to approve the Treasurer's report (motion by Gerry; second by Linda K).

Committees

Bylaws

Ellen will distribute the proposed bylaws with changes highlighted. Once the board has reviewed, they'll be prepared for approval by the general membership.

Education

Kristen reported she did seven field trips this spring.

Three seventh-grade volunteers have been wonderful. They've begun working toward college scholarships.

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

Facilities

- Some ceiling light bulbs were not lighting; they have been checked to assure the bulb were tight and some have been replaced. Additional bulbs need to be purchased and installed.
- The window blind in the video room is in need of repair. Since we never need daylight in the video room, we can get by if no one tries to open it.
- It's been reiterated that Tate will correct items from the earlier addition that need to be improved.
- The food truck generators drown out any music being provided at the pavilion, which does not have a circuit heavy enough to support use of a generator. Lester Parker is looking into the service available. Michael thinks it's unlikely to be worth running an appropriate circuit if we will have enough property to place a generator far away from the pavilion.

Fundraising (and advocacy)

- Gilboafest: Because most of the vendors failed to show, it didn't seem appropriate to charge a fee to those who kept their commitment to be present.
- Shopping Bag Auction: We had a smaller turnout than at the last year's auction, although those attending clearly enjoyed Tony VanGlad and the event. Income was \$753.
- QR code: Pratt Museum can accept donations via a QR code that links one's phone to a donations page on its website. Gerry will set up a similar arrangement for GHS.
- Mailing: On June 16, five board members and two additional volunteers stuffed and labeled envelopes for all of Gilboa, Conesville, and Grand Gorge. The mailing included a cover letter, legacy brochure, membership application, and

schedule of upcoming activities.

- Podcasts: Lee will be point person for the new scripts produced by Brett Barry of Silver Hollow Audio, the team that produced podcasts for TriCounty Historical Views.

- Antique car: Michael has a colleague who will lend us a 1935 Ford “Woody” to advertise our presence around town, in parades, as a billboard, for community jaunts, etc., if we can find appropriate storage. So far, we have not been able to obtain a commercial storage unit. Possibly someone can offer a barn or shed nearby at their residence. Michael has a few more possibilities to explore.

- Several of our vendors for the Psychic Fair are making and distributing posters announcing Gilboa’s event!

- Stein book: Gerry will send Linda S an electronic copy of the cover so it can be posted on Facebook. Some of the science people on a recent museum tour offered to send a list of appropriate journals for reviews of the Stein book.

The board voted to approve Linda K’s fundraising report (motion by Gerry; second by Christl).

Membership

Gerry provided an updated membership list and summarized:

Total memberships = 304

Total lifetime memberships = 121

Total annual memberships = 183

Total households = 238

Total lifetime households = 127

Total annual households = 111

Museum, gift shop, and tour guides

Connie Bates has updated the gift shop inventory from sales slips.

Samples of mugs, T-shirts, and jerseys will be shown to the board before they’re ordered. The URL <GilboaFossils.org> should appear on the T-shirts.

Pricing is being established for new items of jewelry.

The board voted (motion by Val; second by Kristen) to approve the report provided by Nelta.

Refreshments

We haven’t seen any updated lists of who will provide refreshments for upcoming events.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m. (motion by Gerry; second by Kristen).

Upcoming meetings

[Monday, July 10, 6:30 p.m.: Town board meets]

Sunday, July 16, 11 a.m.–3:30 p.m.: Psychic Fair I (rain date 7/23)

Wednesday, July 19, 6 p.m.: field trip to Best House

Saturday, July 22, 1 p.m.: Clover Archer on Stryker Family genealogy (co-sponsored with Conesville Historical and Pratt Museum)

Wednesday, July 26, 1 p.m.: Board meeting

[Monday, August 14, 6:30 p.m.: Town board meets]

Wednesday, August 16, 6 p.m.: Ice Cream Social with FisherCats

Wednesday, August 23, 1 p.m.: Board meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn
Board Secretary