

## Gilboa Historical Society Board of Directors February 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 2:41 p.m.

*Present:* Lee Hudson, Linda Karlsen, Christl Riedman, Val Riedman, Connie Ruehle (arrived 2:50), Michael Shiffer, Gerry Stoner, Ellen Thorn, Kristen Wyckoff  
*Not present:* Janette Reynolds, Linda Stratigos; Nelta Miller

### Reorganization issues

All not-for-profit and government boards of directors are required to review and authorize their basic operating elements at the beginning of each year. Gerry distributed a written list of items for the board's attention. The following were approved (motion by Kristen; second by Michael):

### Meetings and notices

- **Board meetings:** Changed to 1 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the GHS complex, or other arrangements as approved by the board and posted at Gilboahistoricalociety.com (under Current Activities in the right-hand column). Unless changed later, the dates for 2023 are February 22; March 22; April 26; May 24; June 28; July 26; August 23; September 27; October 25; November 29 (to avoid Thanksgiving eve); December 27.
- **General program meetings** for 2023 are scheduled for: March 15 April 19; May 17 June 21; July 19; August 16; September 20; October 18 (following the Annual meeting and election); November 15; December 13 (to avoid Christmas rush).
- **Reports on Society activities:** Officers and all committee chairs are asked to prepare and distribute monthly reports to the board before each monthly board meeting.
- **Official newspapers:** Mountain Eagle and Cobleskill Times Journal
- **Notices** are posted on the GHS websites and on the bulletin board inside the museum.

### Financial matters

- **Official banks:** NBT Bank in Grand Gorge and Wayne Bank in Stamford. At NBT Bank, the following board members have approved signatures for the identified accounts: Checking: Michael Shiffer and Linda Stratigos; Savings: Michael Shiffer and Linda Stratigos; Fundraising: Linda Karlsen and Michael Shiffer; Catskill Tri-County *Historical Views [HV]*: Lee Hudson and Michael Shiffer.

- **Bookkeeper** Teresa Castle, in Gilboa, is employed to provide payroll, accounting, and tax services; and is authorized for online access for inquiries and to make online transfers within GHS accounts.
- **Purchases** (fundraising, program events, marketing, gift shop expenses, etc.) must be approved in advance by the board; with management of these payments arranged individually between the treasurer and the committee chairs.
- **Payment of bills:** The treasurer may pay regular, recurring monthly bills electronically and report these and check payments at the subsequent board meeting. All expenses — cash and electronic — should be included in the monthly list of expenses shared with the board.
- **Reimbursements:** For small amounts, board members and committee chairs can ask for an advance or lay out the funds themselves for reimbursement. Either way, receipts must be submitted to the treasurer within one month. The standard IRS mileage reimbursement rate for 2023 travel is 63.5 cents per mile.
- **Investment policy review:** The board does not have an investment policy at this time.

## Insurance

- General Liability insurance for the Society and items it owns is carried by Dryden Mutual Insurance, 723 Main St., Margaretville NY 12455. (This is reviewed annually before board approval for renewal.)
- The nonprofit Directors & Officers Liability insurance is through Travellers. (This is reviewed annually before board approval for renewal.)
- A copy of Bookkeeper Teresa Castle's Certificate of Liability is on file with the treasurer, with a copy provided to Dryden Mutual.
- **Event-specific insurance:** A specific-event rider providing one-day liability insurance is easily obtained as a rider to most general liability policies. We require a certificate of such insurance, with a minimum limit of \$1,000,000, from any outside contractors serving food, and organizations such as schools or other large groups visiting the GHS campus. The rider will be held by the GHS president until after the event. The contractor or group must name the Town of Gilboa as an "additionally insured" entity on each event-specific policy.

## Contracts

- **Use of Town property:** Facilities Use forms have been filled out and submitted to the Town Clerk for each anticipated event scheduled for the year. As schedules change and events are added, additional or revised forms will be completed and submitted. No drug or alcohol use is allowed on Town property, on which the GHS complex currently is housed.
- **Museum Director:** The Society hires a Museum Director. Job description and compensation — financial and other benefits — should be clarified for both parties. The contract or letter of engagement can have an automatic renewal each year, verified at the time of the Reorganization meeting, subject to

satisfaction by both the board as a whole and the Museum Director being satisfied with working conditions and performance.

- **Tour Guides:** A letter of engagement should be on file with each paid or unpaid tour guide.
- **Webmaster:** A letter of engagement should be prepared that defines the terms of our agreement with the website provider for ongoing maintenance and for updating.
- **Personnel policy signatures:** It is possible that the state requires certain training or policies annually for staff and directors affiliated with any not-for-profit institution established through the state. (e.g., anti-sexual harassment; whistleblowing). A convenient way to keep up-to-date is to have trustees sign these at the annual Reorganization meeting (and to have staff sign them when attending an annual performance review). A list of these policies should be made.

## Discussions relating to construction

Lee reported on the January 13, 2023, meeting between Tal Rappleyea, Esq., and Lee, Michael, Gerry, and Kristen\* [\*via Zoom]. The board voted (motion by Lee; second by Christl) to accept Rappleyea's \$2,500 package in lieu of a charge of \$150 per hour. The board authorized a retainer (motion by Gerry; second by Christl) if needed; Michael will follow up on that. [For travel reimbursement, the distance to Rappleyea's office is 58.6 miles; or \$74.42 for the roundtrip.]

Gerry reported on his discussion with Town Supervisor Alicia Terry, who will allow us to construct an entry ramp prior to the GHS owning the property. Gerry had spoken to Builder Tait and Architect Marigliano about providing a sketch and a cost estimate. Such a ramp would not be affected by other site construction (well drilling, road and parking construction, building addition).

Supervisor Terry reported that she polled the Town Board and its members are agreeable to move forward with the ramp project only.

Linda S suggested preparing a grant request for O'Connor.

## Treasurer's report (Michael)

Michael became Treasurer effective January 1, 2023. He provided the board with bank statement balances through the end of 2022.

Balances for each account as of **December 31, 2022:**

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| • Checking (account ending #7602) =                                    | \$ 6,345.25  |
| • Savings (MMA [Construction] (account ending #3502) =                 | \$464,388.47 |
| • Fundraising (checking account ending #2298) =                        | \$ 7,133.85  |
| • <i>Catskill Tri-County Historical Views</i> (account ending #4542) = | \$ 8,033.46  |
|  | \$485,901.03 |

Michael confirmed that NBT Bank has the signatures and authorization it needs.

In general, membership is down, sales and donations are up.

Michael reported on the inventory and costs for memorial plaques. For the 6 × 8 and 4 × 7 sizes, the cost for materials, engraving, drilling, and shipping is \$42.50; so they should probably be sold at \$100 each. Another possibility, which might reduce the cost, is to explore having them made out of plastic.

The board voted (motion by Michael, second by Kristen) to have Michael sign the tax engagement letter hiring Tony Manzanaro to prepare the accounting paperwork.

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

Ellen prepared and distributed December minutes for review, approval, and posting; and continues to incorporate all calendar changes and additions.

## **Committee reports**

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

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

Kristen and Gerry plan to mount the new science findings described in the Stein fossil book and our 3D printing of the Eospermatopteris crown.

Amy Silberkleit has been working on improving the display of the schoolhouse items housed in the general store display case.

#### **Gift shop (Christl)**

In advance of our spring season, Christl has been reviewing inventory and is ready to order the natural history trifold pamphlets housed on the revolving stand out front of the Gift Shop.

In advance of a spring visit from Gilboa-Conesville Central School's Fifth Grade class, historical toys were ordered. Kristen reminded us that we usually offer a 20% discount to student groups.

### **Operations and staff (Nelta)**

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

### **Marketing**

#### **Programs (Kristen)**

Kristen will confirm a field trip to the Best House in Middleburgh for the July 19 general meeting.

Lee has arranged a Saturday, July 22, 1 p.m., presentation by artist Clover Archer of her genealogical display of the Stryker Family.

Now that Michael has gotten our historical phonographic equipment working, there is much enthusiasm for Michael's suggestion that we organize a dance party event and encourage people to lend their old records for us to enjoy.

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

### **Refreshments (Janette)**

The event and activities calendar includes the names of those who volunteer to provide refreshments for each Program meeting. This calendar is available at meetings, on our websites, in the museum, and upon request.

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

### **Education (Kristen)**

A spring visit from the Gilboa-Conesville Central School's Fifth Grade class is being scheduled.

### **Finance (Linda S)**

### **Grant-writing (Linda K, Nelta)**

### **Membership (Gerry)**

### **Nominations (Linda K, Kristen)**

### **Policies (Linda S)**

### **Public Relations**

### **New Business**

*Adjournment:* The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. (motion by Christl; second by Linda K)

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn  
Board Secretary

## **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

**To Do:**

Prepare a 2023 budget (Michael)

Send thank-yous to purchasers of HV back issues (on postcards?) (Michael)

Encourage volunteers to commit to supplying refreshments (Janette)

Reach out to encourage new members and new visitors (Everyone)

Transfer funds to a CD for a higher yield (Michael)

Ask Phoebe Schreiner to get involved with outreach (Kristen)

Look into grants (Linda S)

Review Town's budget line items (Lee)

Ask vendors for donations of their wares (Linda K)

Determine if CREATE has awarded its grant funding (Gerry)

Update bylaws to include Museum Manager as replacement job title

Electric meter box (Gerry re Lester)

Consider painting agricultural equipment shed

Have Gardens by Trista remove bush near a-c compressor (Kristen)

**Gilboa Historical Society  
Board of Directors  
March 22, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. Present were: Lee Hudson, Linda Karlsen, Christl Riedman, Val Riedman, Connie Ruelhe, Michael Shiffer, Gerry Stoner, Ellen Thorn

### **Discussions relating to construction**

Lee reported that she brought our attorney, Tal Rappleyea, up to date and asked him to work with the Town on moving forward the purchase date of Town property. If the funding for capital improvements is from federal COVID-19 funding, we would like to know the deadline for this expenditure.

The March Town board meeting was postponed due to inclement weather. Gerry attended the rescheduled meeting on March 20 and urged the Town to provide a preliminary schedule of tasks involving preparation of the Town property for sale to GHS, including well digging, road access and parking areas.

A new ramp to the front entrance will have to wait until activities planned by the Town (specifically the well) have been settled.

Apparently there was a one-year lease signed in April 2022 for GHS use of Town property — with the understanding that a sale would likely be completed before the lease ran out. No further word has been heard about replacing the lease.

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

Gerry reported on arrangements made with Nick Juried about marketing and distributing his book, *As I Remember Things, 2/e*. Gerry will house an inventory of 400 copies, to be distributed to Nick's list of complimentary copies and to be made available for sale in boxed units of 8 copies at a wholesale rate. Money raised through this sale will be donated to GHS.

An additional example of Nick Juried's generosity is his \$25,000 check to offset costs associated with property ownership (e.g., building maintenance, higher insurance). We are all so grateful to this Society benefactor and friend!

Gerry reported NYC DEP Outreach Director John Milgrim presented to a small group who fought snowy driveways and were able to get to the Museum. The slide show was recorded. The video link for all those interested in learning about the progress and next steps toward completion of the renovated dam, reservoir and overlook: <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTDs658XtKY>>.

On March 20, CREATE (Council for Resources to Enrich the Arts, Technology, and Education) reported that GHS was awarded a \$1,600 grant from the NYS

Council on the Arts Statewide Community Regrant Program for 2023 programs, to be used for Community Outreach.

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 Linda K; second by Lee) to approve the February 22 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 February 2023. Propane, electric, and telephone were paid (by check or debit), among other payments. Interest earned on the Savings account through January is \$39.44 and through February is \$29.05, bringing year-to-date interest to \$68.49.

Balances for each account as of February 28, 2023:

- Checking (account ending #7602) \$ 6,127.04
- Savings (MMA account ending #3502) \$ 64,456.96
- *Catskill Tri-County Historical Views* (account ending #4542) \$ 8,012.75
- Fundraising (checking account ending #2298) \$ 2,133.85
- CD 9349 (\$50,000, mature 12/2023, at 4.25%) + transfer \$ **80,730.60**

(Transfer from MMA plus CD purchase were approved to gain a higher yield.)

Michael paid the sales tax owed for 2022.

A budget spreadsheet will be prepared for 2023 that includes 2022 budget versus actual and 2023 budget versus year-to-date actual.

Michael bought a book on financing museums. He's hoping the GHS will pay for the book, which he'll then add to the GHS library. The board approved (motion by Ellen; second by Christl) that the Society pay the cost of the text.

Michael sent Thank-you postcards to all those on Lee's list who donated their unused subscriptions from *Catskill Tri-County Historical Views*.

Michael reported a \$150 donation from the Slutzkys for the Stryker family genealogy project by Clover Archer.

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

### **Committee reports**

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

Linda K is planning a Shopping Bag Auction, to be held at the general meeting on June 21 at 6 p.m. The board agreed to donate two copies of Nick Juried's book

to the auction in addition to a budget of \$200 to purchase additional items to bring the number of shopping bags to bid on to about 50 (motion by Christl; second by Ellen).

Linda K also asked the board to be prepared to vote, at the April board meeting, on whether we should hold (a) a 50-50 raffle, (b) a basket-of-cheer raffle, or (c) a raffle for an assemblage of lottery tickets — to be extended through much of the summer season.

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

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

Gerry met with Museum Manager Nelta Miller to review progress of the Gift Shop inventory. Nelta has worked with Christl and with Gerry on inventory, worksheets, sales projections, and orders. She plans to have prices on all books and information online with photos and prices for all fossils and minerals. The toy inventory is currently fine.

Kristen is working up a jewelry order.

Christl has been having trouble with some bookshops; Black Dome is out of print on a popular local history title; and Arcadia and Purple Mountain are difficult to get hold of. Gerry will follow up with his publishing contacts.

Nelta has been exploring the purchase of T-shirts for sale in the Gift Shop. It's possible we'll arrange a design contest with local students.

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

Nelta has several science teachers from Roxbury who are interested in providing docent services this summer at \$50 per day without having to commit to a minimum of 7 weekend days. The board voted (motion by Ellen; second by Linda K) to approve this arrangement.

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

### **Museum exhibitions (Kristen, Lee)**

#### **Facilities (Mike, Gerry)**

The board voted (motion by Michael; second by Linda K) to remove the museum key from its current shared onsite location and to have Michael provide individual keys to board members, to Library Director Nelta, and to tour guides and others who need access. Michael will have the keys made and distributed.

### **Marketing**

#### **Programs (Kristen)**

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

Lee has been looking into alternative ways to bundle sets of 10 issues of *Catskill Tri-County Historical Views* for selling as a single package.

**Refreshments (Janette)**

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

**Education (Kristen)**

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

**Finance (Linda S)**

**Grant-writing (Linda K, Nelta)**

GHS was notified of a \$1,600 grant award through CREATE from the NYS Council on the Arts for Community Outreach.

**Membership (Gerry)**

**Nominations (Linda K, Connie)**

**Policies (Linda S)**

**Public Relations**

**Adjournment:** Meeting ended at 3:13 p.m. (motion by Christl; second by Linda K)

**Upcoming meetings**

Next General meeting is scheduled for April 19, at 6 p.m.

Next Board meeting is scheduled for April 26, at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn  
Board Secretary

**To Do:**

Distribute a 2023 budget vs. actual report (Michael)

Encourage volunteers to commit to supplying refreshments (Janette)

Reach out to encourage new members and new visitors (Everyone)

Ask Phoebe Schreiner to get involved with outreach (Kristen)

Review Town's budget line items (Lee)

Ask vendors for donations of their wares (Linda K)

Paint agricultural equipment shed?

Gardens by Trista to remove bush near a-c compressor (Kristen)

Geocaching: are all materials available?

**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>
	<b>\$ 53,049.00</b>
• 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>
	<b>\$ 54,609.45</b>
• CD 9349 matures 12/23/2023	\$402,752.65
• CD (not on March bank statement)	\$ <u>50,180.48</u>
	<b>\$452,933.13</b>

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

**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

**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.

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| • 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>  |
|  | <b>\$ 57,491.44</b> |

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:14 p.m. by President Gerry Stoner. Present were Lee Hudson, Linda Karlsen, Christl Riedman (left 3:00), Michael Shiffer, Gerry Stoner, Linda Stratigos, Ellen Thorn, Kristen Wyckoff (left 2:30); Museum Director Nelta Miller

**Discussions relating to the current facilities**

The Town says that it is looking to hire an appraiser for tax purposes, even though it won't reflect the actual sale price.

Nelta was surprised to find two men she didn't know in the gift shop when she arrived at the museum. It turned out that they were from the Town's crew and were supposed to be only in the Town's storage basement, not wandering the museum. Nelta was concerned and called Gerry, who had Town clerk Linda Wyckoff investigate; she said they were off course for their assigned task in the Town's records storage room.

Janette had reported a stranger at the pavilion, who claimed he was using the WiFi connection. The internet — and the pavilion — are services we offer the community. If someone finds a member of the public uncomfortable, the best protection is to enter the locked museum building or personal car.

There was no update on the expired 2022 one-year lease between the Society and the Town.

**President's report**

Gerry reminded the board that there needs to be an election of directors at the October meeting, so that nominations need to be provided by the September meeting. Since there are also recommended changes to the bylaws, they should be presented to the membership at the September meeting as well. Ellen will collect all changes submitted and provide the board with a revised draft for review at the August board meeting, so they can be presented at the September general meeting.

**Secretary's report**

Ellen prepared and distributed June minutes for review, approval, and posting. The board voted to approve the June 28 minutes (motion by Linda S; second by Linda K).

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

## Treasurer's report

Michael provided the NBT bank statement balances ending June 30, 2023.

• Checking (account ending #7602)	\$ 9,066.10
• Savings (MMA account ending #3502)	\$ 34,613.50
• <i>Catskill Tri-County Historical Views</i> (account ending #4542)	\$ 8,306.09
• Fundraising (checking account ending #2298)	\$ <u>2,100.60</u>
	<b>\$ 54,086.29</b>

In addition, the bank has CDs as a building fund:

• CD 9349 matures 12/23/2023	\$405,618.38
• CD 0290 10-month promo CD	\$ <u>50,537.53</u>
	\$456,155.91

Interest earned, year-to-date (through June) on MMA #3502 = \$225.03. CD year-to-date interest earned = \$6,156.

Michael supplied the board with a year-to-date P&L laid against the 2023 budget. Total income through July 16, 2023, was \$45,068 against an annual budget of \$69,000. Total expense through July 16, 2023, was \$22,581 against an annual budget of \$35,153. Michael reports that cost of goods sold is not tracked here.

The Society got Nelta a credit card for museum and gift shop purchases.

To get funding from the Town of Gilboa, we must submit a voucher form, available from the Town clerk, requesting funds. Although the Town budgets it, we've not always collected such funds the Town intended to contribute.

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

## Committees

### Archives and Collection Management

Kristen offered to donate to the museum a canoe that her family from the Fulton/Middleburgh area used when she was a child. She suggested it be hung on the ceiling inside the History Center and requested that the Archives committee discuss accepting the possible gift.

The Archives committee has not been meeting to organize and store documents and artifacts until secure facilities are available; we had no idea that construction delay would postpone protected storage for several years! With Rena and Connie no longer active on the committee, only Lee, Linda S, and Ellen currently remain on the committee.

### Bylaws

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

**Exhibitions**

Kristen wants to get more people involved in recommending and creating relevant displays in the museum.

**Fundraising (and Advocacy)**

The Psychic Fair raised about \$500 for the Society.

The recent mailing garnered a return of over 1% and about \$1,500.

Stein book: Gerry sent 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.

Linda suggested two possible new books: one on kids visiting the museum; one on families in the Gilboa region — where they come from, where they landed, what they did once they lived here.

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

**Museum, Gift Shop, and Tour Guides**

Nelta has been organizing the donated fossils with assistance from Kristen. Kristen will send thank-you notes as appropriate. Ellen will supply Kristen with the most recent gift donation form.

Nelta will order business cards for herself; VistaPrint was suggested as a source.

**Nominating**

Our annual election of directors to the board is held at the October meeting, so nominations must be presented to the membership at the September meeting. Board members with terms expiring are Christl, Gerry, and Linda S. There are no term limits, so any Society member can be re-elected.

Officers are elected by the board members serving on the board at the board meeting following the general meeting at which the membership elects directors.

**Refreshments**

We haven't seen any updated lists of who volunteered to provide refreshments for upcoming events.

**Strategic Planning**

This new committee (Linda K, Michael, Linda S, Kristen) feels it has internal work to do and doesn't recommend hiring Bobbi Ryan of Cleverly Crafted for marketing and events planning at this time; but suggests we might be ready for her services in the future. Linda K will notify Ryan.

The committee finds it confusing to have multiple websites and suggests the fossil website be the main site for the Society, the museum, the cultural history center, the gift shop, and community activities and events sponsored by the Society.

Michael will become administrator of the Facebook website that Amy Sternstein began and managed for the Society.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. (motion by Gerry; second by Linda K).

**Upcoming meetings**

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

Wednesday, August 16, 6 p.m.: Ice Cream Social with FisherCats and Stewart's ice cream

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn

Board Secretary



**Gilboa Historical Society  
Board of Directors  
August 23, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by President Gerry Stoner. Present were Lee Hudson, Christl Riedman, Val Riedman, Michael Shiffer, Gerry Stoner, Linda Stratigos, Ellen Thorn, Kristen Wyckoff

**Discussions relating to the current facilities**

The Town board passed a proposal on August 14 to sell GHS the property on and around the museum, pavilion, and surrounding area for \$1, assuming there's no request for a public hearing. (Supervisor Terry says a public hearing is required if requested because the sale price is less than actual value.) Once Gerry questioned a "whereas" that was initially included, the Town board approved a revised proposal to strike it out; this pertained to building a separate driveway and a well.

Gerry will contact Rich Tate to update plans for construction.

Gerry submitted Facilities Use forms to the Town clerk for recent additional planned Society events.

**President's report**

Gerry distributed bylaws with proposed revisions for discussion and approval. The board approved changes to Article III (motion by Michael; second by Linda S); Article IV (motion by Kristen; second by Michael); Article V (motion by Michael; second by Kristen); Article VI (motion by Michael; second by Christl); and then added to Article III a range for the number of elected board members (motion by Kristen; second by Linda S).

Neil Snedeker was selected to fill Connie Ruehle's term as director.

Changes to the bylaws that the board approved must be submitted to the membership at the September general meeting so that the membership can vote on changes at the October meeting.

At the September meeting, nominations for directors need to be provided so that an election of directors can be held at the October meeting. Directors whose current terms are expiring are Christl, Gerry, and Linda S.

In the pass-the-sweets forward category, the leftover ice cream from the ice cream social was donated to the Gilboa-Conesville Senior picnic the following day. After that, the toppings and sprinkles left over were donated to a county nonprofit, RSS (Rehabilitation Support Services), where our active member Connie Bates works.

## Secretary's report

Ellen prepared and distributed July minutes for review, approval, and posting. The board voted to approve the minutes (motion by Michael second by Lee).

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

## Treasurer's report

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

• Checking (account ending #7602)	\$ 9,938.76
• Savings (MMA account ending #3502)	\$ 34,679.64
• <i>Catskill Tri-County Historical Views</i> (account ending #4542)	\$ 8,306.09
• Fundraising (checking account ending #2298)	\$ <u>1,695.20</u>
	\$ <b>54,619.69</b>

In addition, the bank has CDs as a building fund:

• CD 9349 matures 12/23/2023	\$407,035.27
• CD 0290 matures 1/9/2024	\$ <u>50,714.07</u>
	\$457,749.34

Interest earned, year-to-date (through June) on MMA #3502 = \$291.17.

Michael supplied the board with a year-to-date P&L. Total income through July 2023 was \$50,758.68. Total expense through July 2023 was \$25,782.07, resulting in a net income of \$24,976.61. (The most recent budget draft projects an annual income of \$69,000 and an annual expense of \$35,153.)

Michael submitted a voucher to the Town clerk to get \$1,500 budgeted by the Town of Gilboa for the Historical Society.

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

## Committees

### Archives and Collection Management

Kristen said she recalled that items larger than a book should not be accepted as donations without Collection committee review. Committee members suggested that nothing be accepted for donation without a deed of gift form being completed and committee evaluation as to article deposition. The committee emphasized a need to reiterate a clear policy for items gifted to or intended for the museum's collection, so that gifts don't stray.

The majority of the committee, present at the board meeting, agreed to forgo Kristen's offer to donate to the museum a canoe that her family from the Fulton/Middleburgh area used when she was a child.

**Bylaws**

Ellen will distribute the bylaws approved by the directors to the membership at the September general meeting so they can review the revised bylaws and then vote at the October general meeting.

**Fundraising (and Advocacy)**

The board agreed to not spend \$125 to advertise in the October issue of Catskill Guide; we officially close after just one week in October.

The Ice Cream Social raised about \$630 for the Society.

Michael is exploring possible funding sites within the county and nearby.

Michael suggested buying an actual guest book for the podium near the museum entrance that has room for email addresses and other contact information; we can use this data for follow-up and reaching out. The board voted to approve this purchase (motion by Kristen; second by Linda S).

Ellen reported that CORE Values of Stamford made a donation of books to the collection on the pavilion's book swap.

**Nominating**

Our annual election of directors to the board will be held at the October meeting, so nominations must be presented to the membership at the September meeting. Board members with terms expiring are Christl, Gerry, and Linda S. There are no term limits, so any Society member can be re-elected.

Board members elect their officers at the first board meeting following the general meeting at which the membership elects directors.

**Refreshments**

We haven't seen any updated lists of who volunteered to provide refreshments for upcoming events. Have arrangements been made for the Conesville Historical Society visit on September 12 and for the general meeting on September 20 with Bobby Curious entertaining?

**Old business**

Board members discussed the value of having a single website that identifies the Society and the losses we'd face by limiting ourselves to just one. Many internet visitors find us because of their interest in fossils; others find us through their interest in our cultural history and our social activities and events. We must be sure that whichever URLs we use contain live links to the many pages and records we maintain.

Michael has become an administrator of the Facebook website that Amy Sternstein began for the Society in 2015.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. (motion by Michael; second by Ellen).

### **Upcoming meetings**

**Sunday, September 10, 11 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.:** Psychic Fair (rain date 9/17)

[Monday, September 11, 6:30 p.m.: Town board meets]

**Tuesday, September 12, 6 p.m.:** Conesville Historical Society to tour the museum

**Wednesday, September 20, 6 p.m.:** Singer Bobby Curious will entertain, followed by refreshments and short general meeting to inform members of projected changes to Society bylaws and nominees for Society directors.

**Wednesday, September 27, 1 p.m.:** Board meeting

**Sunday, October 8, 4:30 p.m.:** End of regular season; private arrangements for tours and gift shop purchases can be made

[Monday, October 9, 6:30 p.m.: Town board meets]

**Saturday, October 14, 2 p.m.:** Talk on Justice Bliss & taxing NYC for use of Gilboa's water supply

**Wednesday, October 18, 6 p.m.:** Annual meeting

**Wednesday, October 25, 1 p.m.:** Board meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn  
Board Secretary

**Gilboa Historical Society  
Board of Directors  
September 27, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by President Gerry Stoner. Present were Lee Hudson, Linda Karlsen, Christl Riedman, Michael Shiffer, Gerry Stoner, Linda Stratigos, Ellen Thorn

**Discussions relating to the property transfer and addition**

The Town board reported that the survey it received from its surveyor, Steve Sibbern, has items on it that are not acceptable and that changes will be made before the Town approves it. The Town also reported that no public hearing is required on the sale to the historical society because no public requests were filed within the required timeframe.

Gerry will draft a note to the GHS lawyer reminding him that two areas of concern to the GHS board involve a well and a driveway and that positive easements should be mentioned in any contract.

Gerry discussed changes to the building plan to accommodate seating for 60 in the community room, two new bathroom facilities, and the location of a lift. The Building Committee needs to meet for further discussion before meeting with the architect and his assistant.

**President's report**

Gerry reminded the board that elections are coming up and to encourage members to run for the board. Terms are up for three current directors: Christl, Gerry, and Linda S; all are willing to serve another term on the board. He reminded us that you can assign your proxy to another board member if you cannot be present for the election.

Board members will then elect their officers at the first board meeting following the membership election of directors.

He also reminded the directors that changes to the bylaws that were approved by the board were distributed to Society members at the September general meeting, to be voted on for adoption by Society members at the October Society meeting.

The Gilboa Fossils website does not follow the pattern of our other websites and to avoid confusion the Society name and links need to be made consistent on all websites.

## Secretary's report

Ellen had prepared and distributed August minutes for review, approval, and posting on September 1. The board voted to approve the minutes (motion by Linda S; second by Michael).

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

Ellen reported briefly on the general meeting held on September 20, 2023. After a lively concert by Bobby Curious at the Pavilion, about 14 people stayed for snacks and to attend the short business meeting. Gerry provided handouts describing the Society websites; distributed brochures describing memorial and support plaques; reviewed current plans for the addition, which would provide a community room and gallery to the complex and allow us to dedicate space for archiving and office work. Gerry also discussed and distributed copies of the bylaws that were revised and approved by the directors and which need to be available to the membership a month before Society members vote on them. He encouraged people to consider nominations to the board of directors. The general meeting was adjourned (motion by Connie; second by Linda K) at 7:39.

## Treasurer's report

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

• Checking (account ending #7602)	\$ 11,696.76
• Savings (MMA account ending #3502)	\$ 34,745.91
• <i>Catskill Tri-County Historical Views</i> (account ending #4542)	\$ 8,306.09
• Fundraising (checking account ending #2298)	\$ <u>2,147.96</u>
	\$ <b>56,896.72</b>

In addition, the bank has CDs as a building fund:

• CD 9349 matures 12/23/2023	\$408,504.50
• CD 0290 matures 1/9/2024	\$ <u>50,897.12</u>
	\$459,401.62

Interest earned, year-to-date (through August) on MMA #3502 = \$357.44.

Michael supplied a year-to-date P&L report, through the same period as the bank statement. Total income through August 2023 was \$58,920.88. Total expense through August 2023 was \$28,845.05, resulting in a net income of \$30,075.83. (The most recent budget draft projects an annual income of \$69,000 and an annual expense of \$35,153.)

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

## Committees reporting

### Archives and Collection Management

Bags containing a deed of gift form were left at the historian's desk for Janette to offer a donor in the event a visitor wants to donate a document or an artifact to the museum.

### Bylaws

The committee circulated copies of Bylaws the board approved at its August meeting to the membership at the September general meeting for a month's review prior to a vote at the October general meeting.

### Fundraising (and Advocacy)

The Ice Cream Social raised almost \$400 for the Society per the August year-to-date P&L statement. The Shopping Bag Auction brought in over \$750 and Other brought in \$500. The Donation Box raised almost \$900.

Linda K will supply Gerry with the details for the raffle tickets and mailing for the holiday baskets, which Gerry will layout. She'll also arrange a stuffing session for preparing and mailing them.

Michael purchased a guest book for the museum entrance podium, which we can use to reach out to visitors if they provide email addresses and other contact information.

### Membership

Gerry distributed an up-to-date membership roster in advance of the meeting.

Total memberships	304
Total lifetime memberships †, ††	126
Total annual memberships *, **, ***	178
Total households	241
Total lifetime households	131
Total annual households	241

### Refreshments

We appreciate that both Dottie Pickett and Ellen brought refreshments for the general meeting on September 20 with Bobby Curious entertaining.

### Plaques

Eight new plaques and one corrected plaque are in line for being created in October.

Lee reported that the hope is to reach out to heritage families who don't currently have local representatives nearby.

The board voted to accept Lee's report (motion by Gerry; second by Michael).

**Strategic planning**

Michael summarized the committee's report, which includes the need to improve Society visibility and to raise funds to cover our increasing costs, to expand programming and to increase the number of people who actively participate in Society activities.

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

**Old business****New business**

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. (motion by Linda K; second by Michael).

**Upcoming meetings**

**Sunday, October 8, 4:30 p.m.:** End of regular season; private arrangements for tours and gift shop purchases can be made

[Monday, October 9, 6:30 p.m.: Town board meets]

**Saturday, October 14, 2 p.m.:** Talk on Justice Bliss & taxing NYC for use of Gilboa's water supply

**Wednesday, October 18, 6 p.m.:** Annual meeting

**Wednesday, October 25, 1 p.m.:** Board meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn  
Board Secretary



## **Gilboa Historical Society Annual Meeting October 18, 2023**

President Gerry Stoner called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.; 11 Society members were present (5 Board members and 6 additional Society members, constituting a quorum).

### **Property transfer and construction**

Gerry reported that we haven't heard anything new from the Society's lawyer about the status of the purchase of the property from the Town. The Town board had reported that the survey it received from its surveyor had items to be amended before the Town could approve the paperwork.

Gerry distributed sketches of the proposed addition, explaining that some issues are still not settled — the costs, the location of a possible lift, and so on — in addition to the survey issues. A group from the Society's board plans to meet with the architect to move the plans forward.

### **President's report**

Gerry asked for input regarding when to meet during the upcoming months, when people seem to prefer not traveling out at night. He asked that people consider weekend afternoons as a possible alternative. Preferences were discussed, with a majority in favor of broadcasting meetings via Zoom.

### **Secretary's report**

Minutes had been prepared, approved, distributed and ready for posting on the Society's website.

Ellen also updates a working calendar for posting as details are fed to her.

### **Treasurer's report**

Michael reported that the Society has about \$450,000 in two CDs as a building fund and about \$58,633 in its four NBT bank accounts.

We had gotten an extension to file our 2022 taxes.

Michael and Gerry have the two keys for the post office box.

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

## **Refreshments**

The Society took a half-hour break to enjoy refreshments. Paul prepared and served gumbo. Amy, Dottie, and Ellen brought cider, fruit, nuts, cheese, cookies, and chips, which were also enjoyed by all.

## **Bylaws**

Changes to the bylaws that were approved by the Board were distributed to Society members at the September general meeting and again at this Annual meeting, to be voted on for adoption by Society members. Small changes, including moving the Facilities Committee from being described as a subset of the Museum Committee, were made and approved by the Society members present. A motion to adopt the revised bylaws passed (motion by Gerry; second by Michael.) The newly adopted bylaws will be posted to the website.

## **Election**

Terms expire for three current directors: Christl, Gerry, and Linda S, each of whom agreed to serve another three-year term. Ballots were distributed, submitted, and counted. There were no write-in candidates and the three incumbents were re-elected to the Board.

The Board voted to appoint Paul Russell to the seat vacated by Connie Ruehle's resignation.

At the first Board meeting following this Annual meeting, Board members will elect their Officers for one-year terms, with a maximum of five years in a specific Officer position (motion by Gerry; second by Linda S).

## **50–50 raffle**

The handsome newly renovated lottery drum was spun to select the winner of the 50–50 raffle for which we sold tickets over the past months. The winners of \$135 were David and Joyce Barber, who had recently made a generous donation to the Society and became lifetime members!

## **Committees reporting**

### **Archives and Collection Management**

Lee reported on correspondence between Board of Water Supply and authorized relatives resulting in the Society's receipt of about 99 deeds of cemetery records. We look forward to having appropriate space to organize the Society's collections once the addition is built.

**Education**

Personnel at Gilboa-Conesville Central School has changed, giving us a good opportunity to make new contacts and to encourage interaction between the school and the museum.

**Exhibitions**

We recognize Exhibitions as a separate committee, rather than being subsumed as part of the Museum Committee.

**Fundraising (and Advocacy)**

Linda K will provide Gerry with updated details for the raffle tickets and mailing for the holiday baskets, which Gerry will layout and print. She'll also schedule a stuffing session for preparing and mailing them.

Paul suggested a fundraiser offering soup for sale. It's been a popular moneymaker elsewhere. He and Linda K will discuss as they work up other fall fundraisers.

**Adjournment:** The Annual meeting was adjourned (motion by Linda K; second by Connie) at 7:33.

**Upcoming meeting**

**Wednesday, October 25, 1 p.m.:** Board meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn

Board Secretary

**Gilboa Historical Society  
Board of Directors  
October 25, 2023**

President Gerry Stoner called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m. Lee Hudson, Linda Karlsen, Christl Riedman, Val Riedman, Paul Russell, Michael Shiffer, Gerry Stoner, Linda Stratigos (left 2:30), Ellen Thorn, and Kristen Wyckoff were present.

Ballots were distributed to Board members for the election of Officers. The current Officers were re-elected for one-year terms: President: Gerry; Vice-President: Kristen; Treasurer: Michael; Secretary: Ellen.

**Discussions relating to property transfer and construction**

Town Supervisor Alesia Terry had reported at the October Town board meeting that pertinent paperwork had been given to the Town's attorney, Joann Crum, to be shared with the GHS attorney, Tal Rappleyea. We have not yet received appropriate paperwork from Rappleyea. The board suggests that Gerry ask Terry to have both lawyers copy both Terry and him when transmitting correspondence so we know whether there's action or a need to follow up.

Linda S was to meet with the builder, Rich Tate, before this board meeting, but it was postponed to next week. She will forward suggestions and our preferences to the builder and the architect.

Gerry confirmed that we do not yet have keys for the basement storage space we will be getting from the Town once its files are completely removed.

**President's report**

Gerry congratulated the three incumbent directors — Christl, Gerry, and Linda S — who were each re-elected to the board for a three-year term.

The bylaws were revised and approved by Society members attending the October Annual meeting. Gerry suggested it might be useful to tweak two of the committee descriptions in Article VI. As changed, an Exhibits Committee was described as separate from the Museum Committee; and the Facilities Committee was also made separate from, rather than subsumed by, the Museum Committee. The board voted (motion by Michael; second by Gerry) to accept the new wording.

Gerry reported that at the Annual meeting, members discussed when events and programs should be held and suggested that daytime and weekends may sometimes be more appropriate than weekend evenings. Zoom meetings may also be considered. The board agreed that Programs or Events could be scheduled for weekends or as otherwise appropriate (motion by Michael; second by Ellen).

Gerry reported that he and Lee attended the Town's budget workshop and requested an increase in the Town's financial support of the Society (from \$1,500 to \$7,500). The Town will take it under advisement.

Gerry reported on the very exciting visit earlier this month from the film crew from Montreal that interviewed Kristen for its episode on the Devonian Period and Gilboa's fossils. It's expected to be televised in Canada, in both French and English. This might be an ideal program for us to use to open the museum next spring!

## Secretary's report

Ellen had prepared and distributed minutes from the September board meeting on October 5 and minutes from the Annual meeting on October 23 for review, approval, and posting. The board voted to approve the minutes (motion by Michael; second by Linda S).

Ellen continues to update the working calendar of meetings, events and activities as details are fed to her.

## Treasurer's report

Michael provided the NBT bank statement balances ending September 30, 2023.

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| • Checking (account ending #7602)                                    | \$ 12,306.48        |
| • Savings (MMA account ending #3502)                                 | \$ 34,810.17        |
| • <i>Catskill Tri-County Historical Views</i> (account ending #4542) | \$ 8,306.09         |
| • Fundraising (checking account ending #2298)                        | \$ <u>2,550.87</u>  |
|  | <b>\$ 57,973.61</b> |

In addition, the bank has CDs as a building fund:

- |                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| • CD 9349 matures 12/23/2023 | \$409,979.03        |
| • CD 0290 matures 1/9/2024   | \$ <u>51,080.84</u> |
|                              | <b>\$461,059.87</b> |

Interest earned, year-to-date (through September) on MMA #3502 = \$421.70.

Michael supplied a year-to-date P&L report, through the same period as the bank statement. Total income through September 2023 was \$60,826.90. Total expense through September 2023 was \$29,643.18, resulting in a net income of \$31,183.72. (The most recent budget draft projects an annual income of \$69,000 and an annual expense of \$35,153.)

In response to Michael's request about who wants to receive the monthly P&L reports he gets from the bookkeeper, all present but Linda K said they want to receive them electronically.

The board proposed moving the heating service from Amerigas to Sunrise propane.

The board accepted the Treasurer's report (motion by Ellen; second by Kristen).

## **Committees reporting**

Gerry expressed the importance of having the committees move forward with their tasks in order for the Society to make significant progress toward its purpose of collecting, preserving, and sharing its historic traditions and records.

### **Archives and Collection Management**

Kristen will search for her copies of gift and loan forms to be added to the committee's paperwork.

Committee members look forward to having a secure space for storing and protecting its archival papers and collection.

### **Bylaws**

Revised bylaws will be posted to the website and made available for anyone requesting them.

### **Exhibits**

Lee, Kristen, Maryann Neuber are the basis of this committee, which is no longer a subset of the Museum committee.

Ellen mentioned there have been several displays in the works for a while: the new display for the science wall that Kristen and Gerry have been working on, based on content from Stein's book and which will include the 3D printing of the fossil owned by the NY State Museum; a display of items from the Parlman family farm, including a christening gown; the money draw found in the Clapper display case, along with samples of bills and coins.

### **Facilities**

Paul and Michael are the basis of this committee, which is no longer a subset of the Museum committee.

### **Finance**

Nelta, Michael, and Gerry will be the basis of this committee.

All inventory items need a price.

Linda K will gather details about the inventory program Susan Miller uses for her shop.

### **Fundraising**

The 50-50 raffle raised \$270, half of which was given to David and Joyce Barber of Hobart.

Linda K supplied the details for the raffle tickets and cover letter for the holiday baskets, and Gerry will lay out and print the items and labels for the mailing. Copies of the brochure about purchasing plaques will be included in the mailing. Linda K will schedule a stuffing session for preparing and mailing the envelopes.

A fundraising event suggested at the Annual meeting was to hold a soup sale. The idea is appealing, and we decided to consider it in the future.

### **Membership**

Gerry distributed an up-to-date membership report.

Total memberships	300
Total lifetime memberships †, ††	126
Total annual memberships *, **, ***	174
Total households	238
Total lifetime households	131
Total annual households	107

### **Publications**

There's encouragement to create a short newsletter like the one Linda S once did, to be sent to the membership two or three times a year and to contain Society news. Unlike the 40-page Quarterlies and the 80-page Tri-County Historical Views, which included local history essays and reports, this would only include Society business and activities.

### **Programs**

The entire board is encouraged to present suggestions for future programs.

### **Strategic planning**

This committee will take on grant writing responsibility.

Gerry was notified that CREATE grant submissions will be requested in the early months of 2024 and be awarded around April 2024. Gerry will forward any further details he receives.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. (motion by Kristen; second by Michael).

### **Upcoming meetings**

**Wednesday, November 29, 1 p.m.:** Board meeting (note delayed date)

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn  
Board Secretary

**Gilboa Historical Society  
Board of Directors  
November 29, 2023**

President Gerry Stoner called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Present were Directors Lee Hudson, Linda Karlsen, Janette Reynolds, Christl Riedman, Val Riedman, Paul Russell, Michael Shiffer, Gerry Stoner, Ellen Thorn, and Kristen Wyckoff; absent were Linda Stratigos and Museum Director Nelta Miller.

**Discussions relating to property transfer and construction**

At the November 13 Town board meeting, Supervisor Alicia Terry reported that the survey needs to be corrected to incorporate easements and other updates. Steve Sibbern needs to get the specifics from the Town's attorney, Joann Crum. Crum will then share the revised paperwork with GHS attorney Tal Rappleyea, who will pass it to the GHS board for review and, most likely, approval.

Linda S talked with the builder, Rich Tait, and will forward suggestions and our preferences to the builder and the architect, so they can project schedules and costs for the addition. Gerry said that the elevator, the storage room, and the kitchenette will be in the new space, which will also accommodate about 60 seats when set up for a lecture event.

Kristen reported that the water was tested and was clear of bacteria and arsenic!

**President's report**

After Gerry spoke at the Town's board meeting on November 13, the Town board voted to increase its support of the Gilboa Historical Society by \$1,000 before approving its 2024 budget, bringing its financial support to \$2,500. Thank you, Gilboa Town Board.

Supervisor Terry had contacted other towns in the county to ask about their support of their historical societies and reported that two of the eight municipalities that responded reported financial support. Of course, most other towns have many more local venues they can support within their home range.

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

**Secretary's report**

Ellen had prepared and distributed minutes from the October 25 board meeting for review, approval, and posting.

The board approved the minutes (motion by Michael; second by Linda K).



## Treasurer's report

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

- Checking (account ending #7602) \$ 13,248.56
  - Savings (MMA account ending #3502) \$ 34,876.69
  - *Catskill Tri-County Historical Views* (account ending #4542) \$ 8,257.09
  - Fundraising (checking account ending #2298) \$ 2,550.87
- \$ 58,933.21**

In addition, the bank has CDs as a building fund:

- CD 9349 matures 12/23/2023 \$411,411.15
  - CD 0290 matures 1/9/2024 \$ 51,259.27
- \$462,679.42**

(Michael reported the total through November 28 of these six accounts as \$525,678.42, up from \$521,612.63 the month before.)

Interest earned, year-to-date (through October) on MMA #3502 = \$488.22.

On November 9, a quorum of board members (Lee, Linda K, Michael, Gerry, Linda S (via phone), and Ellen met to review and approve the paperwork in connection with the 990 tax form completed by GHS's accounting firm, MMS (Mostert, Manzanero & Scott LLP).

Michael supplied a year-to-date P&L report, through the same period as the bank statement. Total income through October 2023 was \$66,398.12. Total expense through October 2023 was \$30,845.77, resulting in a net income of \$35,552.35. (The most recent budget projects an annual income of \$69,000 and an annual expense of \$35,153.)

The board accepted the Treasurer's report (motion by Linda K; second by Kristen).

## New business

The board voted (motion by Gerry; second by Christl) to purchase a \$250 gift card to be given to a family that is part of the Gilboa-Conesville School District, and designated by the school administration. This is instead of the collection of items for the food baskets we previously donated to local families.

## Committees reporting

### Archives and Collection Management

In 2011, Karen Cuccinello listed books and documents in the GHS collection, which Ellen categorized and updated in 2015. Ellen will redistribute the document list to the board as requested by Kristen.

### Facilities

Sunrise Propane is scheduled to install their tanks to replace those from

Amerigas and begin providing service to the museum on December 6.

Paul will join the Facilities Committee.

### **Finance**

A 990N has been filed.

Lee, Michael, Gerry, Linda S, and Ellen will meet to work on an operating budget for 2024.

### **Fundraising**

The psychics would like to arrange another session.

We'd like to offer a Wellness program, using county as well as other local resources.

### **Grant writing**

Linda S and Michael will work on writing grants to raise funds.

Gerry wrote and submitted a final report required for the 2023 CREATE funding and has passed the history of this grant to the Grant-writing Committee.

### **Membership**

Gerry provided an up-to-date membership report.

Total memberships	311
Total lifetime memberships †, ††	126
Total annual memberships *, **, ***	185
Total households	242
Total lifetime households	131
Total annual households	111

Kristen needs updated information to correct the website contact info.

### **Publications**

Linda S is encouraged to create a short newsletter to be sent to the membership two or three times a year to share Society business and activities.

Gerry is researching a replacement printer for the Stein book, as the printer that supplied the four previous printings no longer does color work.

### **Programs**

Gerry will continue to coordinate the public programs. The entire board is encouraged to present suggestions for future programs.

### **Tour guides**

The board agreed that a regular \$50 shift for a tour guide will be from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with the museum open from 12 noon to 4 p.m. This information will be posted to the school's Facebook page to encourage students to get involved with the Society and to work toward earning a GHS scholarship.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m. (motion by Christl; second by Ellen).

**Upcoming meetings**

**Wednesday, December 27, 1 p.m.:** Board meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn  
Board Secretary

**Gilboa Historical Society  
Board of Directors  
December 27, 2023**

President Gerry Stoner called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. Present were Directors Lee Hudson, Linda Karlsen, Christl Riedman, Val Riedman, Michael Shiffer, Gerry Stoner, Linda Stratigos, Ellen Thorn, and Kristen Wyckoff; absent were Janette Reynolds, Paul Russell, and Museum Director Nelta Miller.

### **Discussions relating to property transfer and construction**

Lee, Michael, and Gerry attended the December 11 Town board meeting, where discussions regressed to positions held a year ago: that GHS would accept the Town drilling a well, but that independent access and parking is still problematic. The Town does not want GHS to use the Town garage driveway or parking space except for major events and with facility-use permit requests and special event insurance.

Before making a commitment to Tait, we need to estimate our additional operating costs and project how to fund our annual expense. This involves researching and itemizing the costs of maintaining various wish list and infrastructure items. Michael will get an insurance premium estimate, which is likely the main increase, from insurance agent Tina Crawford.

Costs for plowing, mowing, landscaping, painting and repairs need estimates.

Some board members will arrange to meet with Gardens by Trista to come up with possible landscaping plans and cost estimates, depending on where roads and parking may be situated.

### **President's report**

Gerry needs board members to mentor volunteers in each of our committees.

The board should meet to discuss and vote on how we want to move forward regarding purchase of property from Town, new construction and renovations, and plans for funding the facilities. A date of January 10 at 1 p.m. was set for a Special meeting for this discussion.

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

### **Secretary's report**

Ellen had prepared and distributed minutes from the November 29 board meeting for review, approval, and posting. A corrected set was distributed on December 20.

The board approved the revised minutes (motion by Gerry; second by Michael).

## Treasurer's report

Michael provided the NBT bank statement balances ending November 30, 2023.

• Checking (account ending #7602)	\$ 14,104.29
• Savings (MMA account ending #3502)	\$ 34,941.19
• <i>Catskill Tri-County Historical Views</i> (account ending #4542)	\$ 8,331.09
• Fundraising (checking account ending #2298)	\$ 4,652.87
	\$ <b>62,029.44</b>

In addition, the bank has CDs as a building fund:

• CD 9349 matured 12/23/2023	\$412,896.18
• CD 0290 matures 1/9/2024	\$ 51,444.30
	\$464,340.48

The total value through November of these six accounts is \$526,369.92, up from \$525,678.42 the month before.

Interest earned, year-to-date (through November) on MMA #3502 = \$552.72.

Michael recommends we purchase a 5-month CD at 5.05% to replace CD 9349. It will mature at the end of May, having earned about \$8,200.

Michael supplied a year-to-date P&L report, through the same period as the bank statement. Total income through November 2023 was \$73,272.36. Total expense through November 2023 was \$34,024.86, resulting in a net income of \$39,247.50.

The board accepted the Treasurer's report (motion by Linda K; second by Ellen).

## Committees reporting

### Archives and Collection Management

Kristen asked Ellen to redistribute the list of books and documents that Ellen organized in 2015. It needs updating as a result of items donated or disappearing.

The committee is looking forward to having dedicated collection space and to encouraging our older families to donate artifacts.

### Exhibits

The committee plans to meet to review and revise displays so that they're ready before the new season.

### Facilities

Sunrise Propane installed their tanks and filled them on December 6.

Kristen and Michael reviewed plants and markers for damage and replacement. The board approved replacing four markers at \$85 each (motion by Kristen; second by Michael). Kristen will get an estimate for plant replacement.

## Finance

Previously, the board voted to donate a \$250 holiday gift card to one or two families in the Gilboa-Conesville school district (in lieu of the food baskets we used to donate), but we're now told by the school administration that they have no recipients. Linda S will pursue arrangements with the school.

Lee, Michael, Gerry, Linda S, and Ellen will work on a 2024 operating budget. A list of projected events and their costs is needed to populate the expense budget.

## Fundraising

The psychics would like to arrange another session.

As a summer fundraiser, Linda K suggested a large basket of cheer, or a small basket of cheer, or a package of raffle tickets.

## Gift shop

Kristen will send Linda K a black and white design for a tee shirt.

Nelta is making progress with the gift shop inventory spreadsheet.

## Grant writing

Linda S and Michael will work on writing grants to raise funds.

## Membership

Gerry provided an up-to-date membership report.

Total memberships	330
Total lifetime memberships †, ††	128
Total annual memberships *, **, ***	202
Total households	257
Total lifetime households	133
Total annual households	124

Kristen will have the website carry corrected contact information.

## Programs and events

All board members are encouraged to present suggestions for future programs.

Gerry will continue to coordinate the public programs. A calendar of upcoming events will be updated as frequently as possible and widely disseminated. Linda S will use this list as part of the contents to be included in the new newsletter.

We'd like to offer a Wellness program, using county and other local resources.

Kristen spoke with a licensed guide about a Gilboa Naturalists program.

We'd like to decorate a tree at NYPA next December, and be represented as one of the active local nonprofits.

We'd like to explore being able to sell food at events.

*Tentative schedule:*

May 25: Season opening

June 2: Psychic fair

June 19: Shopping bag auction  
July: Field trip: date and place to come  
August 21: Ice cream social  
September: to come  
October: to come  
November 17: Holiday boutique  
December 1: Tree decorating at NYPA  
December 11: Bottle auction

### **Plaques**

We've been including a one-year membership in GHS as a benefit to those purchasing a plaque.

Lee has a master list of plaques.

Photos of the plaque wall will be posted to the Facebook page and other sites.

Tour guide training should include encouraging people to purchase plaques.

### **Publications**

Linda S will create a short newsletter to be sent to the membership two or three times a year to share Society business and activities. She needs an updated calendar of events to include in an upcoming issue.

Gerry found an excellent replacement printer for the Stein book, as the printer that supplied the four previous printings no longer does color work.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m. (motion by Christl; second by Gerry).

### **Upcoming meetings**

**Wednesday, January 10, 1 p.m.: Special board meeting**

**Wednesday, January 24, 1 p.m.: Board meeting**

Monday, February 12, 6:30 p.m.: Gilboa Town board

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn  
Board Secretary