

Gilboa Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 24, 2024

President Gerry Stoner called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Present were Directors Lee Hudson, Linda Karlsen, Christl Riedman, Val Riedman, Paul Russell, Michael Shiffer, Gerry Stoner, Linda Stratigos via Zoom, Ellen Thorn; absent were Directors Janette Reynolds, Kristen Wyckoff; and Museum Director Nelta Miller.

Discussions relating to property transfer and construction

The board hasn't heard from GHS attorney Tal Rapplelea regarding any progress on the potential sale of Town property to the Society. Linda S reported that contractor Tait thinks we should meet with the architect again; the board thinks we should first meet to discuss what we want to do moving forward. Michael will re-send his notes about a strategic plan for discussion at a Special board meeting, so we can estimate our additional operating costs and project how to fund our annual expense.

Instead of a Dream addition as earlier envisioned, it's possible we'd cut back to an addition that would limit operating expenses yet provide a kitchen area, an elevator, and a handicapped bathroom. A renovation of the records room the Town ceded GHS would provide workspace and artifact storage, while renovation of the current gallery under the Juried History Center would improve its use for meetings. This would be in addition to new access from the northwest and parking.

Linda will talk to Patrick Barnes regarding publicity, grant writing, and other work as a professional museum director.

Secretary's report

Ellen prepared and distributed minutes from the December 27, 2023, board meeting and from the January 10, 2024, Special board meeting for review, approval, and posting.

The board approved both sets of minutes (motion by Linda K; second by Paul).

Treasurer's report

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

- Checking (account ending #7602) \$ 12,652.94
- Savings (MMA account ending #3502) \$ 56.00
- *Catskill Tri-County Historical Views* (account ending #4542) \$ 8,331.09

- Fundraising (checking account ending #2298) \$ 6,419.87
- \$ 27,459.90

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

- CD 9349 maturity 10/23/2024 \$ 0.00
- CD 0290 maturity 1/9/2024 (APR 4.86%) \$ 51,624.00
- CD 4952 maturity 5/27/2024 (APR 5.05%) \$449,495.36
- \$501,119.36

The total value through December of these accounts is \$528,579.26, up from 526,369.92 the month before.

Interest earned, year-to-date (through December) on MMA #3502 = \$608.72.

Michael purchased a 5-month CD to replace CD 9349. It will earn about \$8,200.

Michael supplied a year-to-date P&L report. Total income through December 2023 was \$79,436.42. Total expense through December 2023 was \$44,062.42, resulting in a net income of \$35,374.00.

A summary of income by category in 2023: Donations = \$32,570; Interest = \$16,772; Memberships = \$4,355; Fundraising = \$3,431; Plaque sales = \$2,150; Gift shop sales = \$1,681; Tri-County = \$557.

Michael checked on insurance costs once we own the building and property. Officers' Liability insurance would remain the same — under \$1,000. Building insurance would increase from current \$1,154 to over \$4,600. An addition of 2,000 square feet would increase that premium to over \$7,200.

The board accepted Michael's report (motion by Linda K; second by Christl).

Committees reporting

Archives and Collection Management

In preparation to having dedicated collection space, the committee asked board members to help move several bookcases and the table holding loose-leaf binders and a photo display away from the main cultural history exhibit space to the downstairs finished room. We may use that downstairs space to mount other exhibits (as we have had a quilt show, a photography exhibit, and a showing of one of the silent movies made in Gilboa).

The committee looks forward to having organized storage space and to encouraging our older families to donate documents, artifacts, and other memorabilia. In the interim, the committee will use the closet downstairs for protecting some of the Society's collection. The board voted a budget of \$200 for outfitting the closet downstairs (motion by Ellen; second by Paul.)

Exhibits

Lee reported on the committee's January 17 meeting, proposing that all exhibits should be self-guided, with clear labels and text panels for identification and understanding; that materials be selected based on relevance to Gilboa Town

history; and that it is essential to rotate displays to present more of our history, to freshen the museum, and to encourage repeat visits.

To provide additional space in the *Natural History* room to display our significant world-famous fossils and their story, the committee proposed moving the *Children's* area into the *Schoolroom* space in the *Cultural History* area. We plan to rehang the children's quilt on the outside wall of the schoolroom; and update and remount the Veterans panel facing where it has been hanging. We will also purchase appropriate mannequins and display cases for the dresses that are near the entry to the *Cultural History* room. The washing machine can go back to the end of the large display case once the case is moved back to the center of the room. The Manorkill Falls poster will join three or four other new oversized photos high on the south wall. An area newly called *Family Matters*, which is currently displaying the Juried two-person saw, will be joined by a new display from the Parlman family, which will rotate to allow for future family items. The *Lifestyles* area will display a new feature — of the Weaving of Loama Benjamin Beggs. The *Neighbors* area will be rearranged to insert a map and identification for people and places. A new display on the west wall will highlight the 1925 Fox silent movie newsreel about the Gilboa village, dam construction, and fossil discovery. This would be shown via an interactive touch-screen kiosk. We will also generate and mount small text panels to describe the musical instruments on the wall; the two antique music boxes; the schoolhouse; and the Juried Family's saw.

A committee has been working with the scientists to confirm the new displays envisioned for the *Natural History* area. In addition to the expanded space gained by moving the *Children's* area, we plan to cover over the window that disrupts the east wall in that room, allowing space for more of the natural history to be shared. Also planned is converting the video-viewing room to a VR (virtual reality) trip into the old Gilboa Forest for an immersive experience.

The committee's plans were approved (motion by Linda K; second by Linda S).

Before new exhibits can be mounted, some wall areas need to be painted. There is appropriate wall paint in a can in the gift shop storage closet.

Facilities

Four Donor markers as well as several plants need replacing. The markers cost \$85 each and will take 6 to 8 weeks to produce. Is this something to postpone with potential construction around the property?

Finance

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

Fundraising

Michael applied to serve as a panelist for CREATE's Schoharie County grants. The psychics would like to arrange a second session.

As a summer fundraiser, Linda K had suggested a large basket of cheer, or a small basket of cheer, or a package of raffle tickets. Decision not made yet.

We'd like to explore the possibility of selling food at events. (Food trucks have their own insurance.)

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.

Marketing

We want to explore the possibility of running an ad or a short article in the Mountain Eagle to tie in near the column written by the Tituses. An article on the Stein book would be very appealing.

Membership

Gerry provided an up-to-date membership report.

Total memberships	327
Total lifetime memberships †, ††	128
Total annual memberships *, **, ***	199
Total households	258
Total lifetime households	133
Total annual households	125

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 explore being able to sell food at events.

Plaques

Photos of the plaque wall have been posted to the Facebook page and other sites.

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. Attached to the minutes will be an updated calendar of scheduled activities.

Adjournment: 2:55 p.m. (motion by Christl; second by Linda K).

Upcoming meetings

Wednesday, January 29, 1 p.m.: Special board meeting

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

Wednesday, February 28, 1 p.m.: Board meeting

A full up-to-date calendar is available as an adjunct to these minutes.

A list of reorganization details is available as an adjunct to these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn

Board Secretary