

Gilboa Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 28, 2024

President Gerry Stoner called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Present were Directors Lee Hudson, Linda Karlsen, Janette Reynolds, Christl Riedman, Val Riedman, Paul Russell, Michael Shiffer, Gerry Stoner, Linda Stratigos (left 2:45), Ellen Thorn, Kristen Wyckoff (via Zoom); Patrick Barnes (left 1:40).

The Internet service has been upgraded, making Zoom a viable way to attend meetings.

Meeting a museum administrator

The board is considering adding an independent contractor to do some tasks for the Society on an hourly basis, working with the Museum Director and the Society board.

Linda S introduced Patrick Barnes, a local native with an MA in Arts Administration. He has been a director of programs, where he implemented exhibitions and public programs; a CEO and artistic director, during which he organized and presented programs and workshops and secured new grant funding; coordinated and preserved an art collection and maintained the collection database, loan agreements, and licenses; prepared and tracked annual budgets; and supported various exhibit installations for several nonprofits.

Discussions relating to property transfer and construction

Gerry reported that the Town intends to not provide a road from the north or access to the lower level of current museum. It will provide a road from Stryker Road to the southwest corner of the pavilion, approximately 150 feet; if GHS wants a road elsewhere, the Town will estimate the cost of its offer. (We estimate a road three times the length.) By blocking access to Town property, GHS would have no turnaround access for emergency vehicles (fire or ambulance) or school buses. There would be little parking and less room for pavilion activity.

The Town will also provide a well (so we need not use all the Town water during our open hours (annual period of use for sink/toilet is during 8 open hours a weekend over 4.5 months]).

The board wants to get a cost estimate from the Town for the minimum driveway it would offer; and its own ballpark cost estimate for the road we envision. Linda S and Gerry will pursue estimates and access and egress code requirements.

Secretary's report

Ellen prepared and distributed minutes from the January 24, 2024, board meeting and from the February 4, 2024, Special meeting for review, approval, and posting.

The board approved both sets of minutes (motion by Gerry; second by Christl).

Treasurer's report

Michael provided the NBT bank statement balances ending January 31, 2024.

• Checking (account ending #7602)	\$ 5,671.45
• Savings (MMA account ending #3502)	\$ 13,246.96
• <i>Catskill Tri-County Historical Views</i> (account ending #4542)	\$ 500.00
• Fundraising (checking account ending #2298)	\$ <u>1,000.00</u>
	\$ 20,418.41

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

• CD 0290 maturity 11/9/2024 (APR 4.75%)	\$ 51,810.34
• CD 4952 maturity 5/27/2024 (APR 5.05%)	\$ <u>449,495.36</u>
	\$501,305.70

The total value through January of these accounts is \$521,72.11, down from \$528,579.26 in December.

A maintenance fee of \$20 was charged against this account (MMA #3502) in January. No interest was earned through January.

Michael supplied a year-to-date P&L report. Total income through January 2024 was \$1,192.10. Total expense through January 2024 was \$930.27, resulting in a net income of \$261.83.

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

Committees reporting

Archives and Collection Management

The committee looks forward to having organized storage space and to encouraging donations of documents, artifacts, and other memorabilia. We plan to arrange the items collected by the Society into the basement space the Town previously used for storage of its records.

Exhibits

Lee reported that the committee has been meeting to clear space and plan for new exhibits, several of which are in the works for the Natural History area and for the Cultural History space. We're expanding the Fossil and Devonian period displays by moving the Children's quilt and other Children's items from that area to the Schoolroom. Also planned is a VR (virtual reality) trip into the old Gilboa Forest for an immersive experience in the video room.

A special display will highlight the 1925 Fox silent newsreel outtakes about the dam construction, Gilboa village, and fossil discovery — the only extant moving pictures of that historic time. Since the final newsreel has been lost, the funds will pay for the creation of a faux newsreel from the outtakes by Silver Hollow Audio and a programmable kiosk for display. The exhibit will also have supplied commentary. GHS has bought license rights to edit and show the footage in perpetuity. The board voted (motion by Ellen; second by Kristen; Michael abstained) to use \$5,000 from the Tri-County account as planned to fund this interactive video kiosk exhibit.

A new theme called Family Matters is being developed to share the wall with the Juried family saw. The Neighbors section will add a map that points to the various hamlets being represented there. We will also exhibit traditional needlework made at family farms, and cash from a cashbox from a general store. These all will have captions that provide context.

The photo mural in the Schoolroom will be framed to remove sagging and will be rehung. The signature quilt previously draped has been hung just outside the Schoolroom. The Veterans list will be updated as possible, reconfigured to fit the wall opposite the Schoolroom, and rehung.

Janette suggested we get a larger table for the typewriter that people like to pound on. We can move it to the desk near the visitor sign-in, where it used to be.

Facilities

Four Donor markers as well as several plants need replacing. Markers, at \$85 each, will take 6 to 8 weeks to produce. This project should be postponed until plans for the property and landscaping are established.

Finance

Committee (Lee, Michael, Gerry, Linda S, and Ellen) need to schedule a meeting to work on an operating budget. Costs for projected events need to populate the expense budget.

Fundraising

We should anticipate at the end of the year the amount of money we'll need for each program so we can apply for grants.

We'd like to explore having food available at events. Food trucks have their own insurance. Other venues offer food for free, requesting a donation in lieu of a purchase price.

Gift shop

Gerry and Nelta are making arrangements to have direct online sales of fossils and minerals through the supplier who will give GHS a discount for sales that come through GHS. This way we are no longer dependent on specific items being kept up to date on the website rather than no longer in stock and irritating to

potential customers; and we'll be able to refresh the items available for purchase.

Terry Lahdi reported that her book, *Butch*, about growing up in Gilboa will soon no longer be carried at Amazon. As a result, Linda will order three copies of the book for the gift shop.

Grant writing

Linda S and Michael will work on writing grants.

Marketing

We will run an ad about the Stein fossil book in the *Mountain Eagle*, near the column written by the Tituses.

A space ad appearing in the *Mountain Eagle* needs to be clarified.

Google has a listing that is incorrect about when the museum is open. We've been trying to replace that announcement but phone calls haven't been forwarded; Gerry will try again to correct it.

We'll try to put notices in the *Times Journal* as well.

Membership

Gerry provided an up-to-date membership report.

Total memberships	338
Total lifetime memberships †, ††	128
Total annual memberships *, **, ***	210
Total households	267
Total lifetime households	133
Total annual households	134

Programs and events

All board members are encouraged to present suggestions for future programs. We want to avoid conflicts of having speakers indoors on weekends, which interferes with visitors to the museum. Speakers can present at the pavilion, unless they have slides that need indoor controlled lighting.

Kristen will contact the Tituses for a presentation on August 10 or September 7.

Lee has contacted people to talk about the rural cemetery.

Gerry will continue to coordinate the public programs and is putting together a list of speakers and programs. A calendar of upcoming events will be updated as frequently as possible and widely disseminated.

Publications

Linda S drafted a short membership newsletter to show the committee what she's planning. It will be sent to members two or three times a year to share Society business and a calendar of scheduled activities.

Adjournment: 3:30 p.m. (motion by Christl; second by Linda K).

Upcoming meetings

Monday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.: Gilboa Town board

Monday, March 18, 1 p.m.: Special meeting re building plans

Wednesday, March 27, 1 p.m.: Board meeting

As an adjunct to these minutes, we will maintain a full up-to-date calendar and a list of reorganization details.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn
Secretary