

Claverack Historical Society  
Minutes  
April 9, 2016

A meeting of the Claverack Historical Society was held at the Reform Dutch Church Claverack, April 9, 2016. The meeting was called to order by President Jeane LaPorta at 10:00 AM.

Those in attendance were: Jeane LaPorta, Robert LaPorta, Nick Zasorin, Maryanne Lee, Katy Cashen, Robert Laity, Ian Nitschke, and Russell Pomeranz. Elliot Bristol was present later due to another commitment.

The meeting was opened by the president with greetings and introductions of new members. The minutes from the January 9, 2016 meeting were read by Secretary Robert C. LaPorta. Corrections included: to correct the acronym for the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack, a suggestion was made that no acronyms should be used in the minutes. It was also suggested that minutes be e-mailed to members for review prior to meetings and the minutes would not have to be read in entirety unless requested. A motion was made by Ms Lee, seconded by Mr. Zasorin, to accept the suggestions and corrections and approved.

Nick Zasorin gave the financial report which showed a balance of \$203.31 after adjustment for dues and expenses. He also stated that membership pins and stickers were available for \$2.00 each. The website domain name has been secured for two years and he is working with Francis Kucija on the development of the website. He requested a copy of the constitution, bylaws and pictures for the site. Zasorin discussed with the committee the need for a web master to manage and run the website. Robert Laity volunteered to assist and is available May 2016. Katy Cashen suggested a Facebook link to the website to distribute information regarding the Claverack Historic Society. President LaPorta indicated the Facebook site named Claverack History Minute as the town historian's education and public forum site. She suggested that this site should be linked with the Claverack Historical Society Website when it is available.

The Claverack Historical Society trifold pamphlet, developed by President LaPorta, was reviewed and discussed by the committee. Ian Nitschke took exception to the logo, suggesting it should be modified to be more professional looking. Nick Zasorin told the group that the logo was created by member, Frank Kucija and has been copyrighted. After much discussion regarding the logo, which is an oval framed three loop clover over the depiction of water, a motion was made by Bob LaPorta that the current logo should be accepted at this time and Ian Nitschke will review changing the logo. He will bring forth suggestions for future discussion. Robert Laity seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Jeane LaPorta presented e-mails from Henry Neale, who was unable to attend the meeting, pertaining to his work on the 501c3. Neal presented the problems he is encountering in efforts to secure the 501(c)3 through the department of State incorporation process. Henry Neal's efforts have been rejected twice by the NYS Department of State. Mr Neal stated in his e-mails that the process would be reevaluated before proceeding with the appeal. A motion was made by Bob LaPorta to talk with Henry Neale to see what options exist regarding the 501(c)3 from the incorporation stand point. The motion was seconded by Nick Zasorin and adopted.

Bob LaPorta outlined the process of becoming chartered by the NYS Education Department. A review of three local historical societies revealed that all three were chartered by the State Education Department. The ten areas of chartering were explained along with the required documentation. A policy regulating accessioning and cataloging collections and a statement addressing the disposition of collections in the event that the society would ever need to dissolve will be developed by R. LaPorta who will present to the committee at the next meeting. R. LaPorta stated that all remaining documents of the chartering process have been completed. The package will be presented to the society for approval before submission.

Discussion about where to house collections ensued bringing several suggestions. Jeane LaPorta explained that the town Historian has access to fire proof files cabinets in the town office basement, Mellenville. Suggestions for possible sites included: vacant store fronts and buildings, space at the town office or other municipal sites and private buildings. Jeane LaPorta explained that the New Baltimore Historical Society utilizes the 2nd floor of the town office building as the town museum. Katy Cashen explained that the Claverack town hall is not secure enough. Russ Pomeranz, previously of the Columbia County Historical Society, offered to interact with them on our behalf should there be a need to store or donate Claverack artifacts at their location.

Ian Nitschke, discussed the Shaw Bridge project and reaffirmed the need to secure the 501(c)3 or find an organization willing to provide fiduciary oversight for this project. Nitschke stated that he had been in touch with Columbia County Historic Society and other organizations attempting to obtain this service and he will continue to explore options. The consolidated funding application for the Shaw Bridge, will be resubmitted in 2016, deadline to be announced. If awarded, there is one year to secure the 501(c) 3 status or locate a nonprofit organization to provide fiduciary oversight.

Katy Cashen, Maryanne Lee and Ian Nitschke volunteered to serve on the nomination committee. A slate of officers and one trustee will be nominated and voted in June 2016. The June meeting has been designated as the annual meeting and election of officers and trustees by the society.

Jeane LaPorta announced that the historic marker awarded to the town of Claverack by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation commemorating the Shaw Bridge has arrived. She suggested that the ceremony to dedicate the sign is an excellent project for the Claverack Historic Society which meets the goals and objectives of the NYS Education Department for historical societies. Discussion ensued regarding a date to dedicate the sign. It was decided that Jeane LaPorta will contact Highway Supervisor Louis LaMont for input regarding the location, setting the post and time line for completion. Maryanne Lee suggested incorporating this event with the Claverack Library book sale scheduled for May 14th. It was agreed that if possible the event will be held on the 14th of May 2016. Jeane will present this information to the town board at their next scheduled board meeting on April 14, 2016. Jeane will notify the W.G. Pomeroy Foundation, per their contract, to advise them of commemorative activities and arrangements pertaining to the Shaw Bridge historic marker.

Katy Cashen updated the society as to the work currently being completed at the location of the Stone Mill Bridge. The 9H bridge over the Taghkanic Creek is in need of repair. The state DOT will reopen the closed Stone Mill Bridge for single lane vehicular traffic during the closure of the 9H bridge. A temporary bridge will be constructed over the original structure and once the 9H bridge is completed the temporary structure and original bridge will be removed. Quotes are being developed to construct a walking bridge at that location when all work is completed. Funding for this project needs to be secured and Katy Cashen and Maryanne Lee will be working on funding for the pedestrian bridge at Stone Mill Road Ext. A public meeting will be held in the next couple of weeks at Columbia-Greene Community College to keep the public informed about the 9H/Stone Mill Ext bridge project.

With all business completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was presented by Maryanne Lee and seconded by Nick Zasorin. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25AM.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert LaPorta, Secretary