**CHS Meeting Minutes May 12, 2018**

Meeting is called to order at 10:06 am by president, Robert LaPorta.

People in attendance: Jeane LaPorta, Bob LaPorta, Amy O’Connor, Elliot Bristol, Henry Neale, Brenda Schram, Nate Schram, Peggy Lampman, Ian Nitschke, and Stephen Formel

Bob would like to refer back to the minutes. Correction re: The Olde York Distillery, it is not part of the Livingston estates, it is part of the Van Rensselaer Estates.

Treasurer’s report. $6.50 returned mail. After returned mail, Balance of $663.80 by Peggy Lampman.

Distillery tour June 16th starting at 11am and is free to all who attend. Stuart Newsome will show how he makes vodka, bourbon and whiskey, and will provide a tour of the cooperage. Plan on the tour and tasting to take about an hour.

Nate Schram, member of the CHS, is our new web master, taking over for Francis Kucija. He graduated from Columbia-Greene CC on the President’s list. He has been provided with all of the passwords and wants review the website and usage by cell phone.

Nick Zasorin requested reimbursement for the three reserved website domains. It had an automatic renewal every 2 years, and the payment was taken out of his account automatically. He didn’t realize he had set it up that way. The hosts are Go Daddy and Word Press. Nick is a lifetime member. Ian made a motion for CHS to reimburse him and Elliot seconded. Motion passed

We are looking to have our next meeting June 30, 2018. This will be our annual meeting, Saturday at 9am. There will be a continuation of officers for 2018. The slate of officers will be presented at next meeting.

Jeane says Shaw Bridge sign went missing…it is a very heavy casted historical sign and it wasn’t in a permanent base. The sign is gone, no prints, no tracks, daffodils untouched. LaPorta's checked with neighbors and called Maryanne Lee, who informed the town board. This sign was a grant from the Pomeroy foundation and they have been notified. Henry asked if a police report was made and the New York State Police were notified by the town. Henry thinks the papers should be notified. Jeane put an announcement on FB about the sign.

Jeane, as town historian is working on a map of the historical properties on the Columbia Turnpike. She is looking for the location of the middle gate somewhere in Martindale. Jeane also announced that paleontologist, Mark Lawler, thinks we should recognize the fact that the first mastodon was found here in the town of Claverack. The mastodon was originally found on Claverack property, now Greenport. Remains were taken to England to study as they were originally thought to be a large human. Efforts to get the remains returned are underway. Ian stated the Dutch historian, Dave Voorhees, mentioned the mastodon at a talk he attended. Jeane says the coordinates are approx. 3 miles north of the city of Hudson, along the river.

Steve Formel owner of the Old Barton Cider Mill on County 11/Martindale Rd. that sits on Ockawamick Creek. It is a water-powered saw mill, dating back to 1720. He bought it in 1990 and built a new barn last summer. Bob would like to set up a tour of the Mill, which is now called The Mill at Green Hole. It is an event venue with waterfalls, gorge and cliffs.

Bob wants to make a point to thank Katy for the idea for the distillery tour, and will email her to see if she wants to do an Agra tour. This concept of moving directly from farm to table will be discussed. Henry was wondering how many farms are in Claverack specifically that we would be able to tour. More preparation on this topic is needed

Bob wants to develop a couple of programs for the remainder of the year. Again, the choices are Tour of the Mill at Green Hole, Dutch Vocal around the holidays, Mum Bett Tour, Legends and Lore walking tour, Steve wondered if Teddy Filli could do a talk. Teddy was the former town historian. He has an extensive arrow head collection and knows a lot of native history and where burial grounds are located.

Henry, as of September, will be on the board of directors of Hudson Sloop. Traditionally this group has emphasis on the environment and the history of the Hudson river. We might be able to bring them here for a program.

There is no signage when entering the town that welcomes you to Claverack. Discussion was held concerning where you would put the signage and what would it look like? The four major roads coming into town are a possibility. The Town board would have to be approached with this idea.

Location for our society, to include artifacts, was discussed. A possible store front that is not being used could possibly be donated. Peggy asked about the new library and their new history room. Jeane said the society's needs are different and did not think the library could meet our needs.

Ian gave an update on the Shaw Bridge. The bridge is currently owned jointly by town and county. The county is willing to transfer ownership to the town according to lawyer Rob Fitzsimmons. Ken Flood will be working with Ian in the distribution of the grant, which would take the burden off the town clerk. Ian will be meeting with Ken next week.

With no further business, Elliot moved to adjourn, Ian seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45AM