

Claverack Historical Society  
PO Box 11  
Claverack, NY 12513

May 20, 2026, Meeting Minutes

A meeting of Claverack Historical Society was called to order by Vice President Gary Davis at 5:10 PM.

Those present were Gary Davis, Jeane LaPorta, Bob LaPorta, Thea Schoep, Paula Ptaszek, Rich Bazelow and Noelle Toland,

Minutes from the March 18, 2026, meeting were approved.

Paula reported that the balance in the checking account is \$996.26 which includes the \$500 grant, approved by the Columbia County Historical Society.

Gary reported that Nick officially stepped down. He will contact Nick to inquire about the post office box which is in Nick's name.

Gary has reached out to Nate Schram to establish a meeting to discuss improvements to the website. The meeting scheduled for May has been cancelled and needs to be rescheduled. Gary discussed a list of improvements he felt were needed

and has shared that list with board members in a separate email. A lengthy discussion regarding the use of Square as a payment platform for the website was had with no final decision made.

Gary reported that the grant request with the Bank of Greene County was not approved. They stated that they did not receive the application and Gary will research the reasons why this problem occurred.

Gary reported that the CHS did receive a \$500.00 grant from the Columbia County Historical Society for the digitizing of the Friend Michael's journal. Thea asked where the digitized file would be stored and suggested the

New York Heritage Digital Collections. This is the organization the Claverack Library uses.

The concept of a historic house tour was discussed. Jeane will supply a list of houses used on previous tours with Gary. Progress with this historic house tour will be discussed at future meetings.

Paula reported on the idea of a trivia night at the Claverack Brewery and presented three dates for this event. June 19th, August 29, and September 25. After some discussion the date of September 25 was approved by a motion from Paula. Seconded by Gary.

Paula also reported that she has contacted the following people who will submit questions for this event. Richard will submit 10 questions on whaling, Jeane will submit 10 questions on baseball in Claverack, Jaylynn will submit questions on the town of Claverack,

Meg Cashen and Pete Ambrose will submit questions on farming.

Noelle reported on her work with social media posts for the Claverack Historical Society. She is pleased with the response from her posts with about 200 views and requests on how to join the Claverack Historical Society.

Those wishing to join the society were referred to the society's website. There seems to be a greater response from Instagram than Facebook.

Thea reported that her team has been reviewing and clarifying the organization's bylaws. For your review, the attached link will take you to the document Thea and her team have created.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f2FiBmmaQHo700FP\\_V-VtvEoM\\_mF947M/edit?usp=sharing\\_eil&rtpof=true&sd=true&ts=6a0f4c04](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f2FiBmmaQHo700FP_V-VtvEoM_mF947M/edit?usp=sharing_eil&rtpof=true&sd=true&ts=6a0f4c04)

Thea also suggested that we should develop a joint meeting with the Climate Smart Organization and the Library Friends to secure more members and brainstorm collaborative efforts that benefit these organizations.

Letters need to be sent to all members requesting volunteers to fill vacant positions and a second letter requesting the payment of dues. These letters will be generated and mailed as soon as possible.

It was felt that the enrollment form needs to have the date the dues paid as well as the date of enrollment added. Yearly dues are payable on January 1st, and we will work toward that date for payment from all members.

Discussion was had regarding ways to increase membership to area residents. Every Door Direct and Pro Printers will be contacted to get specifics on how their direct mailing programs work, their cost and effectiveness.

Add to calendar: June 6, 2026, SCAPE (Stewarding Claverack and Philmont's Environment) free community picnic, 11AM to 3PM. The CHS is considering a membership table at this event.

June 22, 2026, The Claverack Library History room is having their annual luncheon at the Dairy Museum and the CHS is invited.

July 18, 2026, Lita S. Newman Moses will be at the Claverack Library to preview her new book titled *The Red Hotel, A Tribute to a Lost World*.

This is a memoir of growing up at The Arrowhead Lodge in the Catskills in the 1940-50s.

Next meeting June 17, 2026, at 5:00 PM at the Claverack Library.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.