



Claverack Historical Society Minutes July 16, 2025

The Claverack Historical Society met at the Claverack Library History Room. The meeting was called to order by President Nick Zazorin at 5:38 PM. In attendance were First Vice President Gary Davis, Treasurer Paula Ptaszek, Secretary Jeane LaPorta, Trustees Richard Bazelow, Kara Keeler, Bob LaPorta, Ted Filli. Guests, Nita Radtke and Karen Hathaway.

The last board meeting was June 18, 2025. The minutes were approved.

Paula Ptaszek provided a treasurer's report. There is \$1480.85, \$740.00 was raised from donations for the Klocke event, \$115.00, new member dues.

A review of the Klocke event yielded positive feedback; attended by forty-seven guests, three individual new members, nine family memberships. John and MaryAnne Lee gave a generous donation of \$250.00. Gary motioned that a thank you letter be sent to the Lee's, 2nd Bob, carried. Jeane agreed to take care of the thank you.

Future events: Gary suggested having a "Claverack History Day". The suggestion to include the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack, The Claverack Free Library and the Historical Society was agreed. The preferred date was Sat. September 27, 2025, 10AM – 3PM. Nick agreed to propose it at the Church Consistory meeting, July 17 at 7PM.

Bob provided detailed information on the 501c3 application process. Paula, as treasurer, agreed to work on the application. Bob will assist as needed.

Jeane suggested a newsletter in order to keep members updated between events. This would involve someone needing to assemble and write the newsletter, which was agreed, is a log of work. No action was taken. Questions about the society website included whether or not it was being updated regularly. Jeane reported that Nate Schram has been updating the website.

Jeane reported on the Claverack 250 progress. The members of the 250 committee were invited to attend this meeting. Jeane reviewed that she spoke with Dana Filli and Richard Tomlin about the Claverack float and they planned to discuss it with their employer, Tom Holmes. Jeane also contacted Chris Cashen, The Farm at Miller's Crossing, to make them aware and to invite them to participate in the Claverack 250 group. Jeane was also in touch with Mr. David Merritt, a grandson of renowned sculpture of prehistoric creatures, Louis Paul Jonas of Claverack. David offered to contact the Pittsfield Museum that has a Jonas dinosaur in its collection, created by Jonas at the studio in Churchtown. Jeane suggested the dinosaur could be part of Claverack's 250 float. David will be in touch with any news. Jeane reminded the group that the committee has a budget approved by the town board last fall. The theme for the float is still up in the air. Jeane also reported on the Columbia County 250 subcommittee, led by Bill Better County Historian. Bill has been instrumental in engaging a reenactment for the Knox Trail. The contingent of oxen and canons is expected to cross into Columbia County about Jan 9, 2026. When the Knox contingent moves through the county towns are planning historical events surrounding that history. Jeane stated not being sure what the route will be but that the area we know as Ghent today was still part of Claverack before the Revolutionary War so even if it does not pass through any part of today's Claverack, it was known historically to have passed through Claverack because it really did. Jeane expressed that Claverack should plan something during the reenactment and will keep the group updated about it.

Guests Nita Radke and Karen Hathaway spoke on behalf of Nita's mother, Nancy Fuller (Ginsberg), owner of the Locust Grove Farm, Spook Rock Road, also known as the Conyn Homestead. Jeane reported that Nancy had spoken with her prior to this meeting with regard to ideas to preserve the family's restored Dutch colonial home as a historic site. Ms. Fuller suggested that part of the home could be used to house and exhibit Claverack's historical artifacts. Nita elaborated on her mom's ideas of making the house a museum and stated that the family wishes to "give back" to Claverack in a way that will preserve the history of the house and Claverack for future generations. They agreed to keep the group updated as plans progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM, motion was made by Bob, Second Nick.

Jeane LaPorta
Secretary