CLAVERACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

October 19th, 2026

Attendance

Present: Gary Davis, Paula Ptaszek, Bob LaPorta, Chris Tiné, Mat Zucker and Noelle Toland.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the September 2026 meeting. Bob LaPorta moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report showed a bank balance of $1,308.02 as of October 19, 2026.

Follow-Up on September 21 Actions

ACTION (status to confirm): Chris Tiné was to develop a public presentation on the restoration of his historic home for a future Society program.

ACTION (status to confirm): Thea Schoep was to contact Town Historian Jeannie for assistance with reinstalling the Shaw Bridge marker.

Bylaws and Constitution

At Bob LaPorta's request, his written comments are included in the minutes. Bob asked whether the New York State Board of Regents would accept a combined Constitution and Bylaws document when the Society's Provisional Certificate comes up for review. He noted that the Society's existing documents were based on Regent's recommendations and sample documents available when the Society was formed. He asked whether the Society had contacted the Regents and obtained approval for the combined document.

Bob stated that he opposed three-year terms for all trustees and supported staggering trustee elections. Noelle Toland said she believed she had inadvertently omitted the previously agreed wording on staggered trustee elections and would reinstate it.

ACTION (completed): Noelle Toland reinstated the wording on staggered trustee elections and circulated the revised bylaws for review.

ACTION (open): Noelle Toland will contact the Regents to confirm whether a combined Constitution and Bylaws document is acceptable and whether approval is required.

Membership Survey

ACTION (completed): Chris Tiné and Noelle Toland developed a survey for Society members.

ACTION (completed): Mat Zucker formatted the survey and distributed it at Trivia Night.

ACTION (open): Noelle Toland will determine how to share the survey with all Society members, including whether to use email, social media, or both.

December Meeting

ACTION (open) The Board discussed moving the December meeting to December 14, 2026, and holding it by Zoom only. Paula Ptaszek noted that the proposed date would conflict with her and Thea Schoep's schedules.

2027 Programming

ACTION (open) The Board discussed using the December meeting to plan the Society's 2027 calendar.

Ideas included working with the Dutch Reformed Church on a historical music program, participating in the library's book sale and holding a raffle for historical books, and exploring a future event with Klocke Estate following an earlier invitation the Society was unable to accept. The Board also discussed working with Churchtown Dairy on local history events and partnering with historical societies in Philmont and Hudson to bring the Society's programs to a wider audience.

Mat Zucker proposed a Cocktail Day event in partnership with either Klocke Estate or Cooper's Daughter Spirits. He suggested creating a special cocktail inspired by the local story that the word "cocktail" originated in Claverack. Mat shared several other ideas for Society events, and the Board welcomed the opportunity to continue brainstorming with him.

The Board discussed whether to send members a holiday card or a New Year's letter from the President welcoming 2027.

Respectfully submitted,
Noelle Toland
Secretary
Claverack Historical Society