CLAVERACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

September 21st, 2026

Attendance

Present: Gary Davis, Paula Ptaszek, Bob LaPorta, Thea Schoep, Chris Tine, Julie, and Noelle Toland.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the August 17, 2026 meeting. Bob LaPorta moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Paula Ptaszek reported a current bank balance of $1,083.02 as of September 21, 2026.

The Board confirmed that the detailed Treasurer's Report will continue to be distributed to Board members each month, while the meeting minutes posted on the Society's website will include only the account balance.

ACTION: Paula Ptaszek will distribute the Treasurer's Report electronically to Board members each month.

Website

Noelle Toland reported no major website changes since the previous meeting and asked Board members to review the site periodically and provide suggestions or corrections as new material is added.

Trivia Night Fundraiser

The Board learned that Old Klaverack Brewery must close its tasting room temporarily for urgent renovations and therefore cannot host the Trivia Night scheduled for September 25. The brewery offered its outdoor hop-farm venue as an alternative, but the Board agreed that an outdoor Friday evening event in the fall would not be suitable.

The Board agreed to postpone Trivia Night and seek a new date with Old Klaverack Brewery rather than cancel the event permanently.

ACTION: Gary Davis will respond to the brewery, decline the outdoor venue, and discuss options for rescheduling Trivia Night.

ACTION: Noelle Toland will post a postponement notice on the Society's social media channels and advise that a new date will be announced.

Historic House Restoration and House Tour

The Board continued discussion of using local house restoration projects to generate interest in Claverack history. Chris Tine discussed the restoration of his historic home and agreed to work with Noelle Toland on a series of approximately six to eight stories using photographs and restoration details while protecting the privacy of the property and its owners.

The Board discussed broadening the concept to include houses from different periods and parts of Claverack, including Philmont and mid-century homes, and potentially featuring other local restoration projects.

Bob LaPorta suggested that Chris prepare a public presentation at the library showing before-and-after images and explaining the decisions involved in restoring the house. Chris agreed.

The Board discussed using the restoration series and public presentation as groundwork for a future Historic House Tour. A public conversation or presentation was tentatively envisioned for January or February 2027, with a house tour or related walking/viewing event in spring or summer 2027.

ACTION: Chris Tine and Noelle Toland will work together to develop the initial historic house restoration story series.

ACTION: Chris Tine will develop a public presentation on the restoration of his historic home for a future Society program.

Social Media

Noelle Toland reported strong growth in social media engagement, particularly with the recent Philmont history series. Followers are increasingly commenting, sending messages, and suggesting subjects for future posts.

Following the recent Philmont Historical Walk and Talk, Noelle plans to continue expanding the Philmont series and develop similar historical content featuring other Claverack hamlets, including Hollowville.

Community Program Opportunities

Thea Schoep shared information about upcoming history-related programs offered through the Claverack Free Library and the Columbia County Libraries Association, including a continuing series of virtual programs relating to Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

The Library is also working with A.B. Shaw Fire Company and Mellenville Fire Company on a screening of Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat, a documentary about volunteer firefighting, as part of an effort to support volunteer recruitment.

Bylaws and Constitution

The Board discussed the Reconciliation Memorandum prepared to identify areas where the Society's draft bylaws and Constitution do not align. Members agreed that the documents require a dedicated review rather than discussion during a regular Board meeting.

A working session was scheduled for September 28, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. to review the Constitution alongside the draft bylaws and develop recommendations for reconciling the two documents.

ACTION: Board members participating in the September 28 working session will review the Reconciliation Memorandum, draft bylaws, and Constitution in advance of the meeting.

Membership Development

The Board reviewed the recent membership renewal effort. Renewal reminders were sent to 28 people on the membership list who had no record of dues payment during the previous 12 months. Two members had responded and renewed as of the meeting date.

The Board discussed the need to provide more programming and greater public visibility to strengthen the value of Society membership. Members also revisited Every Door Direct Mail as a possible future outreach tool and discussed the potential advantages of using a local printer to manage printing and distribution.

The Board agreed to conduct a short formal membership survey to better understand the types of programs and activities members value, preferred event formats, and interest in volunteering. The survey will also ask whether members would be interested in serving on a Program Committee or other Society committees.

ACTION: Thea Schoep and Noelle Toland will work together to draft a short membership survey, including a question about interest in serving on the Program Committee.

2027 Programming

The Board discussed developing a more structured calendar of programs and events for 2027 rather than planning individual events as opportunities arise. Members noted that the Society's Constitution provides for a Program Committee, which has not recently been active, and discussed recruiting additional members to participate.

Potential future programming discussed included historic house restoration, a Historic House Tour, historic marker dedications, local site tours, and partnerships with other historical organizations.

Red Mills Historic Marker

The Board received an update on the proposed Pomeroy Foundation historic marker for Red Mills. Town Historian Jeannie has completed substantial research, and property owner Jim Ivory has signed the necessary paperwork. The application process is continuing and remains subject to review by the Pomeroy Foundation.

The Board also discussed a future program or reception featuring paintings, drawings, photographs, and other images of the mill in conjunction with the marker project.

Shaw Bridge Historic Marker

The Board discussed the existing Pomeroy marker for the Shaw Bridge, which is currently being held by the Town Highway Department and has not been reinstalled. Members discussed possible placement and the need to resolve property and installation issues.

ACTION: Thea Schoep will contact Town Historian Jeannie to ask for assistance in moving the Shaw Bridge marker reinstallation forward.

Other Business

The Board discussed updating the Society’s membership flyer to reflect the new mailing address and to replace the list of officers with a QR code directing readers to current Society information.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Bob LaPorta moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Noelle Toland
Secretary
Claverack Historical Society