

Claverack Historical Society
Minutes
September 10, 2016

A meeting of the Claverack Historical Society was held at the Vanderbilt House, Philmont, NY, September 10, 2016. The meeting was called to order by President Jeane LaPorta at 1010.

Members present: Jeane LaPorta, Robert LaPorta, Katy Cashen, Ian Nitschke, Peggy Lampman, John Lee, Maryann Lee and Elliott Bristol. Guest speaker Stephen Formel and several guests were also in attendance.

The business meeting was deferred until after the program.

The program today was presented by Captain Stephen Formel during which he discussed the restoration of the former Barton Mill. Formel has undertaken to restore the mill to its former working status. Powered by water from the Agawamuck Creek Bartons' included a fruit press, grist and lumber mill. Tours of the mill are available by appointment with Capt. Formel. The program was well presented with images of the historic mill on poster board. It concluded at 1040.

A motion was made by Katy Cashen and seconded by Elliott Bristol to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2016 meeting as submitted with no corrections or additions.

Discussion regarding the time and location of the CHS meetings was conducted. Those present expressed the need for a viable space for meetings in the future. The society had been meeting at the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack since January 2016 and a donation was given the consistory. Conflicts with the space could arise from time to time. Ian suggested that the conference room at the Philmont Public Library might be an option for those occasions. It was agreed to look into this matter further and report back.

Meeting times were reviewed and Ian suggested that Saturday mornings may attract weekend residents. CHS meetings have been scheduled on the first Saturday of the month at 10AM on a quarterly basis according to by-laws. That will continue with no changes.

General agreement for keeping business meetings and programs separate was indicated. Peggy Lampman stated that programs should always be free of charge, engaging, planned and advertized well in advance. There was a charge for the continental breakfast offered by the VB Restaurant for the September meeting. It was felt that the charge could have had a negative effect on the attendance at the meeting.

All were in agreement that programs were important for the community, they increase visibility and would help encourage membership in the society. Several program suggestions were offered including: historic house tours, poster displays such as historic post cards and local artists. Katy suggested a farm tour.

Ian Nitschke requested time to report on the CHPAC Consolidated Funding Grant application since several committee members were present. It was explained that the grant is intended to be used for the restoration of the Shaw Bridge on Van Wyck Lane. This matching grant in the amount of \$390,000, if approved, would provide \$195,000 the remainder to be raised locally over a designated period of time.

Ian explained that some of the funds could be allocated as "in kind" such as volunteer work. The largest total "in kind" would possibly come from Claverack highway department to do the proposed work according to Ian. Other matching grants will be pursued from local, state and federal sources to make up the required funds. The CFG determination will be made around the middle of November 2016. Ian will keep committee members informed.

Ian reported that a 501c3 entity would be needed to serve as fiscal custodian for the CFG if awarded. He planned to contact the Columbia County Historical Society for starters about the possibility that they would now be able to provide the service. CCHS was not able to act as fiscal custodian in the recent past but Ian planned to speak with Lori Yarotsky, administrator of CCHS, again. Fiscal custodians receive a fee for the service. John Lee stated that the grant application was technically on behalf of the town of Claverack. It was John's position that any grant money from CF should be held in the towns account not a separate 501c3 organization.

Previously the CHPAC was informed by the town attorney that it was not advisable nor possible to provide a budget line item in which to secure any grant funds on the town books. It was agreed to table that question until practical.

Bob LaPorta gave an update on the completed charter application. A meeting with NYS Museum Department representative Sarah Jastnemy to review the application and submit the completed paperwork is scheduled for next week.

With no further business, a motion for adjournment was made by Jeane LaPorta and seconded by Elliott Bristol. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:45AM.

R. C. LaPorta,
Secretary CHS