

WHS Trustee Meeting Minutes – 2 pages
January 6, 2024

Officers and Trustees present: Alex Prizgintas, Neil Crouse, Millicent Treloar, Leslie Rose, Walt Stanfield Jr., Joanne Calore, Bob McCue, Bill Doyle, June Menkens, Viktor Prizgintas, Arlene Maher (11 of 14, a quorum). Others present: Robin Crouse, WHS Scholarship Committee Chairperson; Brandon Calore, Town of Woodbury Councilman; Irma Escallier, Village of Harriman Historian.

Meeting was called to order by President Alex Prizgintas with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Minutes of the September 9, 2023 meeting were read out loud by Alex Prizgintas. No corrections were noted. Viktor Prizgintas motioned to approve, Joanne Calore seconded. All approved.

Minutes of the November 12, 2023 Annual meeting were read out loud by Alex Prizgintas. No corrections were noted. Leslie Rose motioned to approve, Bill Doyle seconded. All approved.

Treasurer's report was given by Alex Prizgintas. Total Account Balance on 12/31/23 was \$37,555.85. Line overview attached. Report approved by all after no discussion or corrections. Arlene Maher motioned to approve, seconded by Joanne Calore.

Committee Reports: Approved by all following a motion by Viktor Prizgintas, seconded by Bob McCue.

Cemetery – No updates.

Collections – Deeds and other documents and artifacts are being reorganized using the two new file cabinets acquired in 2023. Alex Prizgintas called for more photos of winter scenes in Woodbury to expand post cards and general-collection images. Some additional repainting on the Rushmore building grounds is needed.

Gatehouse (GH) – Work on reopening is progressing:

- Joanne Calore has been lining up additional individuals to help ready the GH for opening and also has been contacting other community organizations regarding joint programs.
- All of GH furniture items posted on Facebook Marketplace were sold.
- Brandon Calore followed up with State Assembly Representative Chris Eachus about potential state funding for a new GH roof: An estimate from Frank Stevens Roofing for a new roof of roughly \$225,000 to \$250,000 included approximately \$50,000 for asbestos remediation in removing the existing roof. The estimate was given to Representative Eachus, who said that a maximum possible grant for this project would be \$200,000. Brandon Calore also asked Representative Eachus to consider the WHS/GH for other potential state grants for building improvements and artifacts.
- Brandon Calore informed the WHS that Joe Gianzero, Town of Woodbury Building and Grounds Department Head, will be in charge of short-term GH roofing remedies, as needed, for covering or repairing GH leaks before a new roof is put on. A December 2023 GH roof leak, now repaired, set off an alarm.
- WHS changed the name of the Gatehouse Historic Restoration and Renovation Fund to the Gatehouse Museum and Learning Center Fund as the building restoration and renovation work was completed in 2012 with the installation of the lantern. The money in the fund has been used since for miscellaneous expenses related to operations as a museum and learning center. Examples include: the purchase of display equipment, furniture, artifacts and off-site storage; professional graphics for programs and event refreshments; routine interior upkeep such as cleaning, painting, carpet, small electrical repairs. NOTE: a specific vote was taken to approve this change in the name of the GH Fund. Leslie Rose motioned to approve, Viktor Prizgintas seconded. All approved.

Membership – 150 names (individuals/families/businesses) in 2023; 10 renewals for 2024 so far.

Public Relations/Publications – A winter WHS newsletter is in progress. Alex Prizgintas plans to add additional podcasts and possibly videos to the website and welcomes topic ideas from the membership. He reported that the new editor at the Photo News has been giving WHS substantial press coverage.

Scholarship – Robin Crouse reported that she is waiting to hear from the MWSD about when they want to know the WHS scholarship winners. The committee will meet and hold interviews to accommodate that time frame.

Old Business:

December 3, 2023 Toy Train Show – Over 250 people attended this all-day event. Some 99% of respondents in a Facebook poll of 124 individuals supported making this an annual event. A proposed date is the first Sunday in December. Plans to go forward for 2024 were approved by all following a motion by Millicent Treloar, seconded by Bill Doyle.

New WHS computer – A new WHS computer was acquired, and set up, for \$1395.25 (invoice attached), costing less than the \$1700.00 estimate. The 17-year-old computer will now become the WHS secondary computer used, without an internet connection, for membership data and older digital documents; additionally, software to run the microfilm machine will be transferred to this machine from a 3rd, yet older, computer, which will be disposed of following the software transfer. A computer technician fee of \$300 is estimated to cover the cost of the reconfigured secondary computer. All approved following a motion by Joanne Calore, seconded by Viktor Prizgintas.

New Business:

Wreaths Across America – WHS will make a \$300 donation for the 2024 event. Motion by Bill Doyle, second by Walt Stanfield Jr. All approved.

WHS programs – Extensive discussions of diverse topics for future WHS events and articles/videos continued.

- A proposed April event is “50 Items that Tell the Story of Southeastern Orange County.” This builds from the success of an event more than ten years ago titled “50 Items that Tell the Story of Woodbury” and will involve other Orange County historical societies. The day-long event would feature about ten organizations contributing 5 items each (actually up to ten items each). It can be held on a Saturday or Sunday at the Community Center at the Res or a Sunday at the Senior Center (except April 21). The Highland Falls, Monroe, Tuxedo, Cornwall, Chester, Warwick, and Harriman Historical Societies and the Orange County Archaeological Society all have indicated interest in participating with the WHS. Other groups might be the Orange County Genealogical Society and the Orange County Historical Society in Arden. Motion to move ahead with this event was made by Neil Crouse, June Menkens seconded. All approved.
- A presentation is in planning stages, tentatively in May 2024, about native plants, bees and butterflies to involve a local Highland Mills beekeeper, Dan Sullivan, and Lisa Hintze from the Climate Smart Committee.
- Discussions are taking place with Ray Kelly to give a talk on Orange County Trolleys during the summer at the GH carriage house.
- Would like to schedule the Tony Musso talk “Madams, Mobsters, and Murders in the Hudson Valley” for the November 2024 annual meeting.

Formation of new committee to explore doing a 2025 Calendar for fundraising – Motion by Leslie Rose, second by Bill Doyle. All approved. A WHS calendar was done for 1999. About 10 years ago, a WHS calendar mock-up was prepared by Alex and Viktor Prizgintas that can be used as a prototype. Committee members (5) are Viktor Prizgintas, Alex Prizgintas, Bob McCue, Joanne Calore, Millicent Treloar.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned. Arlene Maher motioned, Viktor Prizgintas seconded, all approved.