



The Woodbury Historical Society

Rushmore Memorial Building
543 Route 32 • P.O. Box 30
Highland Mills, N.Y. 10930
(845) 928-6770

WHS Trustee Meeting Minutes – 2 pages
September 9, 2023

Officers and Trustees present: Neil Crouse, Millicent Treloar, Walt Stanfield Jr., Bob McCue, June Menkens, Viktor Prizgintas, Alex Prizgintas, Joanne Calore, Arlene Maher (9 of 14, a quorum). **Others present:** Lise Prizgintas, 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 July 1, 2023 meeting were read out loud by Alex Prizgintas. Two corrections were noted: change the word “resigned” to “retired” in the sentence beginning “Dot Morris...” in the Appointment of new Chairperson for Gatehouse Committee item in the New Business section. Change the last name of Hailey to Bonnes in the top “Others present” list. Viktor Prizgintas motioned to approve, Bob McCue seconded; minutes were approved by all.

Treasurer’s report was given by Alex Prizgintas. Total Account Balance on 7/31/23 was \$39,787.30. Line overview attached. Report approved by all after no discussion or corrections. Neil Crouse motioned to approve, seconded by Arlene Maher.

Committee Reports: Approved by all following a motion by Arlene Maher, seconded by Bob McCue.

Cemetery – no updates.

Collections & Rushmore Building – A second water and fireproof file cabinet was acquired; it will be used to store artifacts. The Town has begun some building repainting and parking lot improvements.

Gatehouse (GH) – Work on reopening is progressing on many fronts:

- Received two display cases from (donated by) the West Point Museum. Four older (but not of WHS historical interest) GH furniture items are posted for sale on Facebook Marketplace. One such item was donated to the Chester Historical Society.
- Joanne spoke to Frank Stevens Roofing (Central Valley, Dot Morris’s roofing resource person) about an estimate for a new GH roof. He wanted an expert confirmation that the existing roof is asbestos before doing an estimate. Joanne obtained two estimates for asbestos testing: one for \$4,000 and the other for \$1,000. Separately, Neil Crouse spoke to Tom Burke, Woodbury Town Supervisor, about a new roof for the GH. Tom said the Town Engineer will determine if the existing roof is asbestos and will supply the estimate for a new roof. Joanne and Alex will follow up with Tom Burke regarding matters related to a new GH roof and also the need and short-term remedy for covering/or repairing leaks before a new roof is put on. Brandon Calore, Town of Woodbury Councilman, has already contacted State Assembly Representative Chris Eachus about potential state funding programs for a new GH roof.
- The GH building is still undergoing cleanup and minor repairs before opening for exhibits. Monies spent by Joanne Calore on cleaning supplies will be reimbursed; receipts to come.
- WHS is contemplating an October event to mark the 50th anniversary of the Town of Woodbury’s 1973 acquisition of the Gatehouse, to be held in the GH Remembrance Garden. Note that the sale of personal commemorative bricks for installation in the garden will continue as a fundraiser. Notices will appear on the website and in other communication channels.

Membership – no updates

Public Relations – Alex Prizgintas reported that the monthly email to the membership is going forward. A Fall 2023 printed newsletter is in progress.

Scholarship – no updates

Old Business:

A-Frame sandwich board: This “Open for Visitors” sign has brought in new visitors since its July 29 installation.

WHS programs: Extensive discussions of diverse topics for future WHS events and Newsletter articles continued.

- 1) *WHS Annual Meeting:* Rescheduled to Sunday, November 12, 2023 from Saturday, November 4, 2023: Topic will be the histories of Bear Mountain and Harriman State Park, presented by author and speaker Ronnie Coffee.
- 2) *Christmas Toy Train Show:* December date TBD. Planning to repeat show annually and have it self-funding with excess revenue contributed to WHS. Expect to charge the public an attendance fee of \$2 per person/\$5 per family with about 100+ people attending. Proceeds will pay for some display items that need to be purchased. The show will be a one-day event held at the Senior Center. WHS needs to decide a location to store display items year-to-year. Toys on display will be of historical interest and have descriptions.
- 3) Exploring seasonal talks – A Winter social is tentatively planned for February 18, 2024 (snow date February 25, 2024). Ray Kelly will give a presentation on Orange County Trolleys. Speaker fee to be offered is \$100. Alex is in discussions with Tony Musso for a Summer talk, tentatively in July 2024, on Madams, Monsters, and Murders of the Hudson Valley. Speaker fee is \$100. All approved topics and fees for Winter and Summer presentations following motion by Bob McCue, second by June Menkens. Also, a Spring talk is under consideration, tentatively in April 2024, about native plants, bees and butterflies to involve a local Highland Mills beekeeper and/or Lisa Hintze.
- 4) *Fundraiser for Wreaths Across America:* Date finalized by *Cemetery of the Highlands* For November 11, 2023. Lisa Hintze has begun planning details.

WHS website: Routine updates and additions are continuing. Per suggestion from Desiree, WHS will send Miriam and Terry Fawley a check for \$100 instead of a gift card in appreciation of their efforts. All approved following motion by Viktor Prizgintas, second by Neil Crouse.

New Business:

- Miriam and Terry Fawley have begun redesigning a WHS brochure. Miriam has the text. Leslie, Alex, Joanne, and Millicent will review the brochure for changes/corrections/approvals.
- WHS needs more copies of the Arcadia Woodbury history book. We will purchase 20 copies from coauthor Sheila Conroy for \$10 each, totaling \$200. All approved following motion by Neil Crouse, second by Joanne Calore.
- Seth Pulver wants to host a “Woodbury Day” on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at the Rushmore Estate. He invited WHS to have a display table. Alex will host the table. Other volunteers are welcome to join. All approved following motion by Joanne Calore, second by Viktor Prizgintas.

Other business: Note that all books published by WHS members should be on display at events like Woodbury Day and available at the Woodbury Public Library.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned. Arlene Maher motioned, Bob McCue seconded, all approved.

Woodbury Historical Society Treasurer's Report

Month Ending:

July 31, 2023

Gatehouse Checking			
Opening Balance		\$	1,146.23
Deposits	\$	5.00	
Transfers	\$	-	
Expenses	\$	28.61	
Ending Balance		\$	1,122.62

Gatehouse Savings			
Opening Balance		\$	7,867.55
Deposits	\$	-	
Transfers	\$	-	
Interest	\$	3.99	
Ending Balance		\$	7,871.54

Historical Society Checking			
Opening Balance		\$	1,577.05
Deposits	\$	10.00	
Transfers	\$	1,000.00	
Expenses	\$	1,252.28	
Ending Balance		\$	1,334.77

Historical Society Savings			
Opening Balance		\$	25,197.42
Deposits	\$	-	
Transfers	\$	-	
Interest	\$	12.80	
Ending Balance		\$	25,210.22

Scholarship Savings			
Opening Balance		\$	5,238.15
Deposits	\$	10.00	
Transfers	\$	(1,000.00)	
Interest	\$	-	
Ending Balance		\$	4,248.15

TOTAL CASH ON HAND	\$	39,787.30
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