

**Town of Victor
Historic Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for May 5, 2025**

Members present: John Butler, Lisa Roberts, Michael Boester, Bob Kelly, Babette Huber (Historian-Advisor)
Wilma Townsend (Assistant Historian)

Members Absent: Ann Aldrich, Karen Spawton

Call to order: The Meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. by Babette Huber

Approval of Minutes: John Butler made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for September 9, 2024.
Bob Kelly seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Old Business:

- a. The Cemetery Preservation and Restoration Committee is pleased to have Michael Bender as a new member. The committee plans to coordinate with the Victor High School Key Club to do monument cleaning in the spring. We also intend to have a low-key enactment with high school students reading scripts portraying notable people buried in the cemetery, possibly as part of a library walk. We plan on doing a tour or scavenger hunt in conjunction with the Climb Aboard event in the fall.
- b. Historian Update: Wilma Townsend has been busy organizing and cataloging the historical collection using the software, Past Perfect. The historian's office received a donation of old pictures including a crayon portrait of Melania Boughton Smith and a townscape done by Jan Szmanski. The office and vault area have been organized.
- c. The Speakers Series has had two talks this spring, county historian, Preston Pierce, talking on the American Revolution in Western New York and author, Jack Kelly, talking on the spiritual upwelling caused by the Erie Canal. Two more talks remain; on May 18 Chris Carosa will talk about the 1825 Lafayette's visit to our region and on June 8 Joel Richter will talk about the railroad history of Victor. There was some discussion about next year's speakers series. Lisa will check into the possibility of Derrick Platt, Director of the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse providing a talk for us in the fall to coincide with presenting the artwork of the Erie Canal or possibly a separate talk. Michael offered to do a talk on Mount Hope Cemetery. Babette mentioned Dave Rich as a speaker but he charges for his talks.
- d. Barns Inventory: The Landmark Society has completed the barns survey for Victor. The results are in spreadsheet format and need to be changed into an easily-searched database format. The resulting database will be shared with the Town Planning Board.
- e. Interviewing Farm Families: The goal is to have the initial interviews completed by November 2025. Babette will send out interview questions and suggestions. Assignments were reviewed.

New Business:

- a. Historic Plaques: If we issue more historic plaques we will need to find a new source for them since the current supplier is no longer selling them.
- b. Erie Canal Art and Lecture: Babette has invited local painters to do paintings with the Erie Canal as the subject. We would then host a reception and talk as part of the fall speakers series.
- c. Fourth Grade Field Trip: On June 3-7 the Victor School's fourth grade will be scheduling a number of tours at the Valentown Museum. In addition to the tour the students play period games. Babette needs assistance with the games - Tuesday 11:30-1:15 One person, Wednesday 11:30-1:15 One person, Thursday 9:45-11:15 Two people and Thursday 11:30-1:15 two people.

Liaisons Reports:

Planning— No report

Zoning— No report

Announcements: The New York State Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act has strengthened the protection for unmarked cemeteries in the state.

Observations around Town: The Conezio house on Main Street is for sale. It has a long history of housing doctor offices or being inhabited by local doctors.

Lisa reported that the Friends of the Railroad have applied for a Pomeroy sign for the trolley shelter along the Auburn Trail next to the Fishers Firehouse. They have gone through the first steps and feel they will be receiving a sign. Confirmation is about 2 weeks away.

Lisa talked about possible adding a sign to the Lehigh trail next to the concrete abutments that were for the Rochester & Eastern Trolley. She spoke to the Railroad group about this & they feel it's worth pursuing. She also suggested the railroad group work with VHT on a kiosk for some historic photos that show how the trolley bridge crossed above the Lehigh railroad track.

Lia would like to see Victor investigate whether there's interest in a barn quilt project. It involves barn owners installing a wooden painted quilt square on their barn. also would like to see Victor investigate whether there's interest in a barn quilt project. It involves barn owners installing a wooden painted quilt square on their barn.

Motion to Adjourn: John Butler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob Kelly. The motion carried.

Date for next meeting—Monday, July 7, at 3:30.