

**Hasbrouck Family Association Inc.**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**October 11, 2008**  
Deyo Hall, New Paltz, New York

1. The President called the meeting to order at 3:34PM.
2. The Hasbrouck Family Association (HFA) officers present were introduced:  
Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr., President; Robert C. Hasbrouck, Jr., First Vice President;  
John O. Delamater, Vice President; Robert H. Freehill, Vice President; William G.  
Hasbrouck, Treasurer; Meryl S. Brown, Secretary; and Eleanor C. Sears, Assistant  
Secretary.
3. The attendees introduced themselves. (Total attendance at the reunion was 34.)
4. Reading of the minutes from October 13, 2007 was waived.
5. Jean Clancy, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, announced that the current  
directors (listed below) had agreed to serve for another year.

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.	President
Robert C. Hasbrouck, Jr.	First Vice President
John O. Delamater	Vice President
Robert H. Freehill	Vice President
William G. Hasbrouck	Treasurer
6. Meryl Brown was appointed Inspector of Election.
7. **Voting results are as follows:**

<b>Slate of Directors:</b>	<b><u>Yes</u></b>	<b><u>No</u></b>
Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.	89	0
Robert C. Hasbrouck, Jr.	86	0
John O. Delamater	74	4
Robert H. Freehill	67	4
William G. Hasbrouck	88	0

**Slate of directors elected.**
8. The President appointed the following officers:

Meryl S. Brown	Corporate Secretary
Eleanor C. Sears	Assistant Secretary
Thad M. Hasbrouck	Assistant Treasurer
9. The President appointed the Nominating Committee:

Richard R. Hasbrouck (Chairperson)
Frances B. Ryder
Helen Seacord

10. The President reported on events of the past year and the current status of the Association and its prospects:

The highlight of the year was the reopening of the Jean Hasbrouck House on July 26 after a 4-year hiatus. The restoration work was impressive – both the north wall with its 18<sup>th</sup>-century replica Dutch casement windows (the only ones on Huguenot Street) and the interior work, including authentic paint colors and appropriate furnishings for a 1760's interpretation. Visitors have been very favorably impressed. HHS did not have enough resources to initiate a planned self-guided tour program; it hopes to do so next year.

Limited HHS resources have also frustrated HFA's desire to move forward with restoration and interpretation of the Abraham Hasbrouck House, but we are finally making some progress. HFA retained Neil Larson as a consultant to arrange for and monitor a number of restoration projects jointly agreed on by HHS and HFA to be performed by outside contractors with HHS oversight. Two such projects have been completed (north wall/chimney restoration and resetting of kitchen door) and a third is in process (improved support for roof rafters). And last night the HFA directors and HHS Executive Director Eric Roth had an initial discussion on interpretation of the house. There are conflicting views on this topic, and Roth said HHS will retain an expert consultant to study the house and its relationship to Huguenot Street and recommend a form of interpretation. The HFA directors expressed the strong preference of its committed members for a traditional display with period furnishings.

The major development with respect to Locust Lawn (the Col. Josiah Hasbrouck House) was the formation of a standing committee of HHS (with John Delamater representing HFA) to oversee the property there (which also includes the 1738 Terwilliger House) and try to develop a plan to make it self-supporting.

As with everyone else, HFA's finances have suffered in the current worldwide financial crisis. Our asset values have been materially affected despite a conservative investment policy. Our investment income has been only moderately affected so far, but worse may be coming as companies are reducing dividends to conserve cash in a negative economic climate. We are heeding the traditional investment advice not to panic and sell our holdings at reduced levels because the markets anticipate and can rebound rapidly before a recovery is apparent. But obviously no one knows how bad it will get before the tide ultimately turns. For the present, at least, our income is sufficient to maintain our current level of activity.

With respect to future prospects, the President stated the need to address two negative trends which remain unimproved since he highlighted them at last year's annual meeting:

(1) our eroding membership base, in terms of both numbers and involvement. We now have only a token number of members who are actively engaged in the affairs of HFA and hardly any in the New Paltz area. Newsletter pleas in June '07 and '08 for more member involvement in any of a specified list of activities elicited virtually no response. Unless we are able to reverse this trend within a relatively short time, there will not be enough active members to keep the Association viable.

(2) The perilous financial condition of the Huguenot Historical Society (HHS), which owns and maintains all the houses and operates all the activities of Huguenot Street. Over the last ten years or so, HHS has transformed the Street from a secluded, small-scale operation into a quality museum site attractive to visitors, school groups, history scholars and researchers with a quantum increase in visitation and public exposure. However, in the process, income has not risen as fast as expenses. The deficits have been covered by invading the HHS Endowment Fund; and although both fund

raising and expense control have been accelerated, the deficits still threaten to undermine the viability of HHS before they can be eliminated. The HHS trustees have adopted a goal of reaching break-even by 2011 and are taking sensible steps in that direction, but the current crisis in the financial markets has accelerated the decline in value of the Endowment Fund, and success is not assured. Meanwhile the financial strain and a reduced staff is resulting in insufficient resources available to maintain some activities at the level needed – including maintenance and restoration of the historic properties.

We have to do the best we can to cope with these two negatives. We need to find a way to increase both the personal and financial involvement of our members and to bring in new members. For starters, please encourage your family members and relatives to support their family heritage and join. And anyone willing to become more active should contact us to discuss specifics.

11. The Treasurer’s Report on HFA’s financial position was given. As of September 30, 2008, assets were:

HFA General Fund	\$ 106 thousand
HFA Endowment Fund	327
Helene Hasbrouck Anderson Fund	<u>1,637</u>
Total Assets:	\$2,070 thousand

The Anderson Fund is used only for the Abraham House and can adequately cover its maintenance and restoration expenses. The General Fund is used for day-to-day operations; its major source of funds is the income of the Endowment Fund.

Due to HHS’s strained financial position, HFA will probably need to contribute financially more than usual in the next few years to the upkeep/restoration of the Jean House and Locust Lawn. A higher level of member contributions is needed for this purpose.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 4:11PM.

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Meryl S. Brown, Secretary