

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
BACKBONE RIDGE HISTORY GROUP OF SCHUYLER AND SENECA COUNTIES**

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the “*Backbone Ridge History Group of Schuyler and Seneca Counties*” (BRHG).

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purposes of this organization shall be:

- a. To encourage and disseminate a greater knowledge of the history of the State of New York and particularly the area known as the Backbone Ridge in the counties of Schuyler and Seneca;
- b. To establish and maintain a museum of Backbone Ridge history, open to the public;
- c. To collect, own, hold, maintain, preserve, and make available to the public, in cooperation with the surrounding historical organizations, an appropriate collection of documents, objects and artifacts relating to Backbone Ridge;
- d. To arrange, create, maintain and promote appropriate interpretive exhibits and living history programs;
- e. To establish and maintain an historical research collection;
- f. To promote and support original historical research and scholarship, sponsor and organize historical and cultural activities, programs and events for the public and for schools, and issue publications in any appropriate format;
- g. To acquire by purchase, gift, devise, or otherwise hold the title to or the custody and control of historic sites and structures, and preserve and maintain such sites and structures;

- h. To cooperate with the Finger Lakes National Forest and museums, historical societies and local government historians in Schuyler and Seneca Counties and surrounding communities in projects and activities of mutual interest including the marking of places of historic interest; and
- i. To cooperate with local, county, state and federal officials and organizations in the collection and preservation of materials of local, county, statewide and federal significance.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Membership shall consist of six categories:

- a. Individual member - Any person interested in the purposes of the Backbone Ridge History Group of Schuyler and Seneca Counties shall be eligible;
- b. Household member - Any family group, residing within the same household, interested in the purposes of the Backbone Ridge History Group of Schuyler and Seneca Counties shall be eligible;
- c. Institutional member - Any organization, board, school, or library interested in the objectives of the Backbone Ridge History Group of Schuyler and Seneca Counties shall be eligible;
- d. Patron member – Any firm interested in the objectives of the Backbone Ridge History Group of Schuyler and Seneca Counties shall be eligible;
- e. Contributing and sustaining member - A person or group offering special support to the objectives of the Backbone Ridge History Group of Schuyler and Seneca Counties shall be eligible; and
- f. Honorary member - A membership that is conferred upon any person whose activities have contributed to the objectives of the Backbone Ridge History Group of Schuyler and Seneca Counties. Honorary members shall be elected by a three-fourths vote of members present at an annual meeting, upon nomination by the board of trustees.

ARTICLE IV

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the organization shall be held during the month of October of each year.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1 The officers of the organization shall consist of:

- a. A President – The President shall preside at all meetings of the group and of the Board of Trustees. The President shall be the executive head of the BRHG, and shall perform such duties as usually pertain to the duties of the office. The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees and be notified thereof;
- b. A Vice-President – The Vice-President shall perform all duties of the President in their absence. The Vice-President shall be an ex officio member of the committees and shall be notified thereof;
- c. A Secretary - The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Board of Trustees, including the Annual Meeting; and
- d. A Treasurer – The Treasurer shall oversee routine financial matters of the BRHG and present a monthly report to the Board of Trustees.

Section 2 The board of trustees shall consist of the officers and elected trustees. There shall be a minimum of five such elected trustees and a maximum of twenty-five.

Section 3 The officers shall each be elected for a term of two years. Trustees shall be elected for a term of three years.

ARTICLE VI

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1 All officers and trustees shall be elected at the annual meeting. If there is a contested position, the election shall be by a plurality of votes cast by secret ballot.

Section 2 Officer elections will be staggered for continuity; President and Secretary terms shall begin on even years, therefore voting for these offices will be at the annual meeting in the

odd year preceding the term start. Elections for Vice-President and Treasurer will be in even years with their term beginning in the odd year succeeding the vote.

Section 3 Trustee terms shall be manually staggered where trustee elections are held every year to ensure continuity.

Section 4 Not less than two months prior to the annual meeting, the Secretary of the organization shall send to each member of the board of trustees a ballot upon which such member may nominate one person for each office open to election. Nominations shall be returned not less than one month before the annual meeting. A committee on nominations, appointed by the President, shall select the candidates from a list of all nominees.

Section 5 Nominations may also be made by any member of the organization at any time prior to balloting at the annual meeting. Any nomination made after the deliberation of the committee on nominations shall be added to the slate of candidates upon affirmative vote of a majority of members present at the annual meeting.

Section 6 A person who has been elected to the board of trustees for two consecutive terms, or elected as President or Vice-President for three consecutive terms, shall not be nominated to the same office unless one year elapses between the end of his or her last term and the beginning of the term for which he or she is nominated. This restriction on consecutive terms can be waived by a two-thirds vote of the membership attending an annual meeting.

Section 7 Officers and trustees shall be installed on January 1, following the annual meeting at which they are elected and shall serve until their successors have been duly elected and installed. In the event of resignation or incapacity of any trustee, or any officer except the President, the vacancy may be filled by a vote of the board of trustees for the unexpired term of office. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice-President for the unexpired term of office.

ARTICLE VII

DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the Federal, State or local government for a public purpose.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENT

This constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a two-thirds vote of those voting, provided notice was given at the previous meeting; or it may be amended at a special meeting called for that purpose, with previous notice and a two-thirds vote. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing.

ARTICLE IX

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order (latest revised edition) shall govern the proceedings of the Backbone Ridge History Group of Schuyler and Seneca Counties except in such cases as are governed by the constitution or the bylaws.