



Marker #7

In 1932, the New York State Education Department erected a marker at Osborne Corners in Guilderland Center to designate when the Township of Guilderland was organized. The first town meeting was held April 5, 1803, near the same site at the Appel Inn. Today, a new green and white historical marker graces the lawn outside the new Town Hall that was built on Route 20 at McCormacks Corners in 1972. A large addition was added to the present Town Hall and dedicated in 1989.

Many changes have taken place since the first meeting. After the initial meetings at Appel Inn, town business was conducted in the homes of various town officials.

In April of 1814, the town meeting was held at the home of Joel Morgan. William McKown was elected supervisor, Andrew Ostrander was town clerk, and John Schoolcraft, Cornelius Waldron and James LaGrange were assessors. Among the ordinances adopted at that meeting were:

- Any person killing a wolf in town would be rewarded \$25.00;
- No male horse could run at large above the age of one year old, under fine of \$12.50;
- Cattle were not to run at large between the first of November and the first of April;
- The commissioner of schools was to be entitled to \$1 per day;
- Lawful fences were to be 4 1/2 feet high.

At the same meeting, the highway commissioner estimated that the expense to repair all bridges and roads would be \$60.

As the population of the town grew, meetings were moved to public buildings. Town meetings were held in a hall upstairs over a garage in Guilderland Center across from the Cobblestone School. In the 1950s, when John Feldman was supervisor, town business was conducted in a room adjacent to the former Well's Service Station on Route 20 east of Master Cleaners. The service station has since burned. By 1957, the former schoolhouse on Willow Street (now the State Troopers' barracks) had come into use for town meetings. The old schoolhouse remained the

seat of town government until 1971, when the new town hall was built. That new structure was considerably enlarged and remodeled in 1988.

In 1959, an official coat-of-arms was adopted from the Province of Gelderland in Holland to commemorate the many Guilderland founding fathers who originated from that country. A needlepoint tapestry of the coat-of-arms hangs in the office of the supervisor at the new Town Hall.

Town meetings of yesteryear were concerned with wild wolves running loose in town, lawful neighbor fences and repairs to roads and bridges. Town planning, zoning and environmental concerns are complex issues that trouble town officials today. Though almost two centuries removed the objective is the same, the shaping of a community. The historic marker in front of the Town Hall of 1994 salutes all those, past and present, who have contributed to that goal.