

Attending: Heather Walker, Dan Hamilton, Jesse Morrison, and Louise Garwood, Ryan Gough, guest, Amy Dugas

Agenda

Call to order

Minutes January review - vote

Treasurer's Report

Pending Business:

Methodist Cemetery National Register Nomination progress report

Website and Digital - Dan scanning updates, and more

Town Hall Construction review updates

Basement materials storage

New Business:

Appointments

Office- curtains-

Community Donations

Correspondence

Meeting Opened: Heather called the meeting to order on Feb 9, 2026 at 7:03 pm.

Call to order: Attending: Heather Walker, Dan Hamilton, Jesse Morrison and Louise Garwood (quorum)

January Minutes Approval: Motion was raised by Jesse, seconded by Heather, and motion carried with no discussion.

Minutes will be posted by Dan on website.

Treasurer's Report: Heather read the February report with approved expenditures. Heather will email copies to members.

Pending Business:

Old Methodist Cemetery: Amy Dugas presented updates on OMC nomination project. The cemetery is significant as it contains graves of families who started the Methodist movement in West Brookfield, only one of 4 other communities statewide at this time-early 19th c. Earliest burial is dated 1812, with church built in 1823. Project is progressing well, following the Fannin's research work. *Amy will keep us informed on progress, when she sends in first draft to MHC.

Web/Digital Scanning Update: Dan reported significant progress scanning historical documents, including all of file cabinet C, boxes with yellow stickers, (maps, photographs, negatives) Jacob Knight exhibit materials, Bill Jenkins materials and many census records. *Continue scanning project, increase Google Drive storage from 20GB to 100GB (\$17.First year, \$30./yr thereafter)

Town Hall: Discussion of concerns replacing slate roofing with asphalt shingles due to budget constraints. Dan researched building history finding the original slate roof was installed in 1874(replacing wooden shakes from 1861. Architect Bob Haveles has located Preservation consultant, Brian Lever of Epsilon Assoc, Maynard,MA. to prepare a report to request approval of asphalt shingles (in contradiction of the Preservation Restriction Agreement) from MHC on the options for repair that would be in compliance with the Preservation Restriction. His cost for writing up the and evaluation of roof and request for approval from MHC for use of architectural asphalt shingles instead of slates will cost the town about 7,000.

The Commission was asked to submit a letter of support. HC is not in agreement with the decision for asphalt shingles without a plan to write grant to eventually replace shingles with slates in relatively near future. Our argument is that the comprehensive maintenance report produced by Beth Sitterly in 2002, was never adhered to with any serious commitment which has resulted in the building and roof being in severe disrepair. We want to call attention to the Commissions persistent effort to encourage the Planning Board, Advisory and Select Boards to put Capital repairs budget together for the Town Hall, which was never done, failing to keep the aging building from serious safety aesthetic disrepair. Louise sent letter to Bob Haveles for further information on life expectancy of asphalts vs slates, cost comparisons, grant planning, but has not received reply.

*Louise will follow up for additional information.

Demolition Delay: Jesse will visit Assessor's office to request database of all properties with construction dates to support Demolition Delay By-law implementation

Basement Storage: Commission will move materials from Basement storage to office for scanning, cataloging and boxing up for move to Climate Controlled storage in Sturbridge. Details on who will hold the lease is being worked on. Dan and Louise will move materials up to office, *Louise will contact town admin. and storage place to set up move.

Library Programming Support: Amy Agro , Library Director suggests Paul Revere Printing press program for 250th anniversary. We agreed to pay for all or part depending on Directors wishes.

Continued

New Business:

New Appointments: LG will send letters to Selectmen so Anne-Marie and Jesse can get sworn in.

WBHC Annual Donations: Commission voted to make annual donations to of \$200. to Asparagus Festival, White Christmas Committee, and Bandstand Committee from the England Fund. Vote taken , passed unanimously .

Office curtains for blocking glare and for insulation Votes not to exceed \$200. For rods and panels. *LG

Correspondence: Rec'd Fannin holiday card with note that they'll complete last (1) stone this spring.

LG will contact Ann Malloy concerning England Fund Trust- we usually receive by January.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Motion to adjourn was raised to adjourn at 8:15pm. Seconded by all. Next Meeting March 2nd 7pm.