

May 4, 2026

West Brookfield Historical Commission Minutes

Meeting Opened: Louise called the meeting to order on May 4, 2026, at 7:04 pm.

Call to order: Members Attending: Louise Garwood, Heather Walker, Dan Hamilton, Jesse Morrison, and Anne-Marie Nolan.

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

Treasurer's Report: Heather gave account balances, reviewed current expenditures, and amended town account approved expenditures to include the cabinet (up to \$3,000) which was voted on in April 2026. Motion to approve Treasurer's report with the above amendment was raised by Louise, seconded by Dan, and motion passed unanimously. Dan submitted an invoice for the additional Google Drive storage for \$16.99.

Scholarship: There were no applications. Heather suggested expanding the scholarship criteria to include graduate students and possibly Warren residents. Further discussion is needed for changes in 2027.

Town Hall: Louise has no update. There is only conjecture as to why the consultant and architect have not gone forward with the project. Louise will check with Theresa Cofske as to any update.

Web/Digital Scanning Update: Dan has scanned material on part of the table. He showed a Bicentennial flag, bunting from 300th anniversary, and a Historical Commission banner. They will be put in a tote for now. He has begun digitizing Valuation books and has done all but 2 census reports. Discussion revolved around what to do with Civil Defense 1950 era gas masks that were kept on floor above (Asparagus Festival?). Dan had emailed a link to the folders of what he has scanned so far (20 pages). Question was asked as to what should be kept in the cloud, what should be made public, and so on. Decision was for members to peruse the list by the September meeting and check which should be public and what should be available to HC only. Dan was thanked for doing all this work.

Demolition Delay: Jesse had no update. He may contact realtors in the area for a list of houses that are 100 years old or more. Dan will look in HC office binders as well.

Storage: Dan volunteered to use his credit card to purchase the cabinet to expedite the process and be reimbursed later.

New Business:

Asparagus Festival Planning: Louise has drafted a list of what to bring on Saturday, May 16. Jesse will have his truck available. Louise will investigate a vinyl HC banner. Tent, table, chairs, tripod easels, maps, binders, posters, OIC project book, pictures, guest book, inquiry book, Civil War album, brochures, Bill Jankins and Brenda Metterville books, cash box, business cards, Lucy Stone 2018 booklets, Jacob Knight WB framed print, Centennial banner, Dog license book, etc., some weather-dependent. Members will meet at the office on Saturday at 8am.

Internal Commission positions: In September, Dan will take the Secretary's position and Anne-Marie will take the Treasurer's position. Heather and Louise will remain as co-chairs.

Cultural and Historical inventory copies: Louise had 3 copies bound: 1) Town Administrator, 2) Clerk's Office, and 3) HC files. Anne-Marie made a motion to reimburse Louise for the printing at BT Copy Center for \$25.50 from the England Fund, seconded by Jesse, and motion carried with no discussion.

Correspondence: Billie Moberg, a Grade 6 teacher from WBES, contacted Louise as to whether she would be interested in keeping school records. Louise replied with suggestions as to possible solutions as the HC is not responsible for artifacts. Louise has not heard from Ann Molloy since her last communication. Louise read a draft of a letter to be sent to the company which oversees the England trust disbursement asking for verification that the Historical Commission can use the funds at its own discretion (gift, donation, etc.) according to Mass General Laws. Discussion ensued as to a possible donation toward Town Hall repairs.

Other: Dan is putting together Heather's curator talk on Jacob Knight with the Senior Center as a possible presentation venue. Also, Dan announced that Ted Timreck, a filmmaker who was part of the "Honoring Brookfield's First Inhabitants" presentation at the Brookfield Congregational Church on 8/27/2023, will be showing a new film in Acton, MA in November 2026. Dan is interested in looking for sponsorships for a second showing in this area (OSV, Eagle Hill, AAS) with a 150-500-person seating capacity. Heather will furnish Dan with AAS contacts.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Motion to adjourn was raised by Jesse and seconded by Dan at 8:41pm. Next Meeting is on June 1, 2026, at 7pm.