

June 1, 2026

West Brookfield Historical Commission Minutes

Meeting Opened: Louise called the meeting to order on June 1, 2026, at 7:02 pm.

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Heather gave account balances and reviewed current expenditures. Motion to approve Treasurer's report with an adjustment to the England Fund balance was raised by Jesse, seconded by Anne-Marie, and motion passed unanimously. A motion to deposit \$60 from the sale of the Metterville/Jankins books into the Historic Donations account was raised by Louise, seconded by Dan, and motion carried with no discussion.

Asparagus Festival debrief and correspondences: The day went well with good weather and attendance. The banner was well received, with no plan to use it next year. The poster will need images replaced, possibly from Bill Jankins' and/or Archie Jay's collection. Thoughts for next year: Jacob Knight WB print, ballot box, and a map of Center Historic District with houses/names. Louise is answering 4-5 inquiries.

Web/Digital Scanning Update: Dan is continuing the scanning, with folders not being stored into the cloud, only onto the hard drive here in office. Discussion touched on keeping valuation books or not after scanning and public access.

Storage/Cabinet: Louise contacted the cabinet company for details for shipping, assembling, and installing with no response. It has multiple adjustable shelves, with double doors and ventilation. Heather researched another cabinet from Gaylord Archival with less shelves and no ventilation. The Jacob Knight prints will need to be distributed to the towns so there will be less to keep. Dan has volunteered to take on the ordering of the cabinet.

Town Hall: Louise has no update. Louise received information for an ADA grant (maximum \$250,000 per application) to possibly be done next year for work to be done on doors and railings.

Demolition Delay: Jesse has no update.

Scholarship: The editing update will be done over the summer.

New Business:

Boston Post Cane: Anne-Marie stated that the new Boston Post Cane (BPC) recipient will be Helen Lapenas, who is turning 99 years on July 2. Anne-Marie made Helen's acquaintance, and she was agreeable to be honored as the oldest resident of West Brookfield. The ceremony will take place in the Housing Authority Community room on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at 1pm. State officials and Select Board will be notified. The nameplate will be engraved by Olympic Trophy for the BPC case, a picture frame bought for the certificate, and a corsage purchased locally for the recipient. A motion was raised by Heather and seconded by Jesse to allow up to \$75 for these purchases from the Historic Donations account. Motion passed with no discussion.

HC recruiting: Dan suggested putting a blurb in the papers and flyers about needing members and inviting people to our meetings. Louise can put it on Facebook and Dan can put it on our website.

Ann Molloy: Nothing from Ann Molloy. Jesse will contact Dearborn, the trust company.

Summer projects: 1. Methodist Cemetery 2. Louise – consolidate active files 3. Heather - Treasurer's Reports

Gaylord order: A motion was raised by Heather and seconded by Anne-Marie to purchase archival boxes for no more than \$150 from the England Fund. Motion passed with no discussion.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm. Next Meeting is on September 14, 2026, at 7pm.