

**September 12, 2025 Gordon-Wascott Historical Society Minutes**  
**Location: Wascott Town Hall - 16362 S Town Hall Rd, Wascott**

**Time: 5 PM - Wascott Historical Park Presentation**  
**6 PM - Board Meeting**

**A very special presentation by Chuck & Patti McDermott revisiting Wascott history including a tour of the Wascott Community Church & Hoffman One Room School House. A plaque was presented to Chuck & Patti to thank them for all of their years of service the Town of Wascott & preserving the history.**

1. Roll Call - meeting called to order @ 6:01p

Board Members In attendance: Jan Jenson, Brian Finstad, Donnie McConkey, Jim Olmsted (via Zoo); Non Board-Members In attendance: Maureen Kelly, Lisa Hall, Jenny Liautaud, Chris Kivi, Dan & Natalie Carlson, Teri Heathcote

**2. Approval of appointing Maureen Kelly to the Board and as Treasurer**

Jan Jenson made a motion to approve & appoint Maureen Kelly as a board member and Treasurer. Donnie McConkey seconded. Motion carried.

**3. Accept Laura Urban's resignation from the Board; Discussion of possible replacement**

Brian Finstad made motion to accept resignation of Laura Urban as a board member. Jan Jenson seconded. Motion carried.

Teri Heathcote & Dan Carlson will consider joining the board. Jim Olmsted indicated Jessica Matthias may be interested in joining the board. Brian will reach out to Jessica and Dan and Teri were told they could talk with any of us regarding their questions, concerns, etc. GWHS may need to update the bylaws to include additional board members and would like generic language so the bylaws do not need to be updated each time the number of board members changes.

Adding board members and updating the bylaws will be added to the October board meeting agenda.

4. Treasurer's Report (Barb)

As Barb was not in attendance, the Treasurer's Report was tabled and will be added to the October board meeting agenda.

**5. Approval of June 20 Meeting Minutes; Approval of August 9 Meeting Minutes**

Jan Jenson made a motion to approve the June 20, 2025, and August 9, 2025, meeting minutes with the following revision to the August 9 minutes: Remove 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence under Treasurer's Report as Maureen was not the Treasurer of the Northwoods Education Foundation. Maureen

Kelly seconded the motion w/revision. Motion carried. Lisa will update the August 9 minutes accordingly.

#### 6. Caboose Update (Brian, Tom, & Chris)

- Town Meeting Update - Jan Jenson attended the meeting and discussed a land use agreement and indicated there would be a forthcoming agreement, but the state wanted a "govt entity to govt entity (state to town)", plus a MOU with GWHS. The meeting also included discussion on the benefits to Gordon, and all board members were supportive! Land agreement is no cost - lawyer will draft. Town of Gordon and GWHS will draft their MOU regarding maintenance, upkeep, etc.
- Ties (Chris Kivi) - Chris has the ties and by pushing this off into next year there is a possibility of getting nicer ties. Most important part of the project is what is under the ties - need to make sure it is compacted. Depending on how high the grade is made, may need to find someone other than Chris to build it.
- Rails (Tom Kamps) Tom was not in attendance at the meeting, but has indicated previously he has the rails.
- Ballast (Discuss) Brian indicated ballast from Wild River Trail (as previously suggested) is not an option. Chris indicated Solon Springs concrete may have ballast. RR gets its ballast from Mosinee. Dan Carlson may have a contact for ballast (dump truck load?) Fill will be needed prior to ballast (Brian will check w/Craig Golembiewski).

#### 7. Depot Manager Report (Tom)

- Collections and building maintenance (depot foundation) Tom was not in attendance, so this was tabled and will be added to the October board meeting agenda.
- Train location monitor & need for internet - monitoring group may be interested in paying for the internet Sept-May. After further discussion and Chris Kivi indicating the system we have may not be available in the future, Brian Finstad made a motion to cancel the internet, give a sincere thanks to Brian Sykes and explore other internet options to discuss @ our next meeting. Jan Jenson seconded. Motion carried. Lisa will look into Starlink remote & meet w/Don., plus she and Maureen will look into a "pay as you go" phone with data plan to be used during the summer months as we will need internet to use Square, Venmo, etc.
- Bench restoration - Don is restoring old benches from the depot and they will be stored in the depot during the winter.
- Gift Shop (Susan) Susan was not in attendance, so this was tabled and will be added to the October board meeting agenda.

#### 8. Museum Manager Report (Barb) Barb was not in attendance, so this was tabled and will be added to the October board meeting agenda.

#### 9. Administrative Coordinator's Report (Lisa)

- Website renewal - Our current Wix plan is no longer available and we will need to choose a new plan. Lisa provided options. Jan Jenson made a motion to approve and move forward with the Core/\$29 month plan. Donnie McConkey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Website DRAFT pages - Lisa indicated DRAFT pages are ready for Amick Historical Park, Caboose, and Jim's Oral Project. She needs to update a few pictures for Amick Historical Park, Tom is working on a history of the Caboose and Jim is still working on gathering pictures, bios, etc. These pages will be ready to go live soon!

#### 10. Oral History Project Report (Jim)

Jim is having trouble accessing the link to the DRAFT pages, so Lisa will provide screen shots to him. He needs bios from Steve L., and Kate Lawler Perry. If he doesn't receive these bios soon, he will draft himself. Jim has approved photos/interview to be put online and will email to Lisa.

He provided a photo of Doug to Lisa, but will need to wait to hear from Brian regarding if Doug's interview needs to be edited. Claudia is having issues with her flash drive-can only listen to about 5 minutes. Ellie Connolly hasn't gotten back to Jim.

Steve L & Kate Lawler Perry's pages are ready, Jim just needs to sign off & give Lisa the OK to go live.

Teri had a few questions for Jim. 1) Is this a volunteer project? Yes, it is 100% Jim volunteering in conjunction with WI Humanities project; he suspects the project will continue for at least another year. Jim can send consent and questionnaire to Teri (Lisa to provide Teri's email address); 2) Is this grant funded? GWHS received a grant for \$402 from WI State Historical Society for recording equipment that needs to be matched by GWHS. Jim will purchase the equipment this month and submit the receipt to Jan.

#### 11. Amick Park Update - As we ran out of time, this was TABLED until the October board meeting.

- Approval of Interpretive Marker sponsored by Kate Lawler Perry
- Approval of Memorial Bench design and purchase for Smith family
- Discussion of Donation to Town

#### 12. 2025 Upcoming Meetings Schedule

October 10, 2025, 6 p.m. via Zoom

November 14, 2025, 6 p.m. via Zoom

December 12, 2025, 6 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 7:18p

Recorded & submitted by Lisa Hall