

November 14, 2025 Gordon-Wascott Historical Society Minutes

Location: Zoom

Time: 6PM

1. Roll Call.

- Present: Brian Finstad, Maureen Kelly, Jim Olmstead, Jan Jenson, Don McConkey, Tom Kamps, Lisa Hall, Jenny Liautaud, Dan Carlson
- Missing: Barb Fiandt, Becky Keith, Susan Seningen, Don MacDonald

2. Approval of September Minutes

- As this was a “working meeting”, approval of September 2025 minutes was tabled until the next regularly scheduled board meeting on December 12, 2025.

3. Treasurer’s Report (Maureen)

- Maureen spent the morning with Barb learning the budget preparation process, item classifications, etc. As of end of October 2025, Amick acct has a balance of \$33,340 and the Operating budget has a balance of \$18,024. \$17,000 was transferred from Amick to Operating acct as \$31,000 expenses were classified as Amick. Amick now has a separate account with a separate checkbook. Brian/Maureen/Jan/Barb will be meeting November 24 to prepare the 2026 budget and will clarify transferring \$ back to the Operating acct, so we are tracking actual revenue/income for special projects & reimbursing the Operating acct.
- Discussion on whether Amick and Caboose need to have separate accounts. Consensus was that they can use the same account, but need separate line items as applicable for record keeping purposes.
- Maureen did some research and it is her recommendation that anyone who is paid more than \$600 (including supplies, maintenance, materials, etc). needs to receive a 1099. Otherwise the nonprofit could be liable for taxes, i.e., FICA.
- Jim indicated the original price of the video recorder was discounted at \$614 & \$200 for accessories (tripod, scan discs, external storage) which the board previous approved and included a \$402 matching grant. Unfortunately these prices have increased since that original plan. The video recorder now costs \$800 (Brian – this amount is not correct, please clarify w/Jim) plus the accessories. Jan made a motion to allow Jim to purchase the accessories as needed. Don seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. New Board Member Elections

- Dan Carlson – Jan made a motion to appoint Dan Carlson to the board. Maureen seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dan is excited to join the board and start working with us. He said it will be a great adventure and it is important to capture this history.
- Teri Heathcote – had expressed interest in being on the board. Brian met with her and she would prefer to stay on as Museum Attendant, not as a board member.
- Emeritus Status for Doug MacDonald – Due to health issues, Doug tendered resignation. Brian suggest Emeritus Status for Doug. Don made a motion to create an emeritus status for Doug. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Nomination for replacement of Vice President – Brian made a recommendation for Jan as VP, but it is open for any nomination. Jan is willing to be VP. No further nominations were made. Don made a motion for Jan to fill the VP role. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Whalen House

- Approval of Pest Control – still having squirrel issues! Tom provided a business card for Bats Be Gone (Spooner) as they also work with squirrel problems. Brian contacted them for costs, but didn't get through. Brian will again reach out to Bats Be Gone & also try Plunketts. Dan will reach out to Guardian & provide that information to Brian. Brian will pull it all together and send the information to the board, via email, for approval.

6. Depot Manager Report (Tom)

- Update on fall work tasks completed – Tom/Tammy cleaned trees around roof of depot. One tree still needs to be limbed; Brian got rid of table sitting on the deck; due to time constraints, Tom would like to purchase cubes for gift shop – Lisa will provide Tom with that information.
- Mike Lucas filled the foundation cracks w/hydraulic cement for now (no charge). He is sure it was some sort of recent failing of the foundation in the last few years. The running theory is that the record snowy 2022-23 season created extra roof weight probably due to roof not being shoveled. Brian has contacted Woodhauls who will need to lift the building for an official repair.
- Tasks needing assistance with – Tom wants to purchase/donate 2 folding tables so we have them @ the depot.
- Bench restoration (Don) – bench #1 is finished & in the depot and the 2nd one is ready to go. The black walnut is from father's bar (Cozy Corner Inn). One of the benches will be dedicated to Don's dad. Don will provide history of the benches/restoration for the album.

7. Caboose Land Use Update (Brian)

- Brian indicated the state finally found the deed, filed under Dane county instead of Douglas county. The state is working on getting this recorded appropriately. At this time, there are no more title issues and we can do a straight-up land use agreement. Brian completed plan & submitted to state; just waiting for them to send the land agreement so he can present to the town. He's hoping to have the land use agreement by December 12 meeting. Tom wants to meet with Brian at the caboose site tomorrow morning @ 9am

8. Oral History Project Update (Jim)

- It's starting to look like something on the website! It is quite a project to edit as he needs to send each interview back to interviewee for final approval, then get on the website. We just added the slide show of Steve & Marietta slides; still need bio for Doug.
- Interviews have to be under 50mb, so they need to be split into Part 1 and Part 2. Interviews that are ready need to be transcribed-hoping to get that done in January.
- Still waiting on Ellie Connolley, Bob/Jack, and 2 more of Doug, plus Claudia's interviews.
- Have been doing more interviews – tracked down the Ken Scott family (mile down from Gibson cabin on the river), the family moved outbuildings further down the river due to riverway access.
- Also needs to get an interview with Dan Carlson who has pictures, etc.

9. Amick Park Update (Brian)

- Approval of Memorial Bench – Brian shared a phot of the bench and indicated each be a will be a donation of \$4000 (cost of \$2123) which includes bench, shipping, plaque, and anchors. Each bench is powder coated for low maintenance & includes anchors & rectangular bronze plaque for the memorial. Room for 23 characters/line (4 lines) on the back of the bench. Smith family was first to donate! Jan made a motion to approve purchasing the bench. Maureen seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Discussion of Donation to Town – Craig will touch base with Brian tomorrow as he couldn't make the meeting. Need approval to transfer park to the town and Brian/Craig will meet to get into the logistical details. If park falls under town=sign, insurance, etc., "owned" by municipalities & are exempt from county regulations. Town already owns GWHS buildings, takes care of the lawn, etc. We do need to have an official MOU with the town with everything spelled out regarding responsibilities. GWHS wants retain design control of the park, stain pavilions, etc., and town would be responsible for lawn care, insurance. Basically same agreement as we currently have with the town regarding buildings-just need to formalize it and get it on paper. Town would not reimburse GWHS for work

already completed. Everything @ Amick Park was completed with donations-NO town/tax \$! Brian hopes to provide an outline of the MOU to the board @ the December 12 meeting. Jan made a motion to approve donation of Amick Park to the Town of Gordon, contingent on MOA details. Tom seconded the motion. Motion carried.

10. Wascott Historical Park (Jenny)

In need of more support. How can we help?

- Jenny-need direction on where to begin. Chuck/Patti initial agreement was given approval to create park as long as it didn't cost the town anything. Since then, the town has been paying for pest control, electric, lawn maintenance, so there have been costs incurred. All else done by volunteers, i.e., painting. Some things need to be worked on: roof, windows. Moving forward Jenny would love to see some greenery, so not sure about that as no water source. The town is looking @ upgrading the playground equipment from the town park or old Gordon school-not sure of logistics/liability. Are permits needed?
- Ideas: Get the church up to par and rent it out for weddings, funerals (using the town hall for the reception), kids party @ the school house. Pioneer day, old-fashioned Christmas carol lighting/sing carols. Speaker series @ the church during the open weekends. Community garden? Need to get it safe & presentable first.
- All buildings need a 5-year maintenance plan.
- Questions: 1) was the land donated to the town?-Jenny will get clarification on this, 2) How big is the land-1 or 2 acres? Jim mentioned adding a few historic signs consistent with Gordon signs. Owner of the land to the right of the church reached out to the town to see what could be done with the land.; 3) Who is responsible for what @ the Wascott Hx Park?
- Maybe have a spring meeting there to start looking @ the process/list of what needs to be done.

Jan indicated one individual reached out to her and expressed interest in doing a grant towards the Wascott Historical Park. At this point, this person just wants to talk. Once Jan knows more, she will pass on the information.

**7:34p Brian made motion to adjourn, Jan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Recorder: Lisa Hall**