

GORDON WASCOTT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

FRIDAY JUNE 20, 2025-4PM

GORDON TOWN HALL

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL-** Present were President Jan Jenson, Treasurer Barb Fiandt, Secretary Becky Keith, Historian Brian Finstad, Gift Shop Coordinator Susan Seningen, Tom Kamps and Tammy Reigle, Lisa Hall- Administrative Coordinator, Craig Golembiewski –Gordon Town Board liaison , Kate Perry, Jenny Liautaud–Wascott Town Board liaison, Jim Olmsted and Donnie McConkey.
- 2. APPROVAL OF JUNE 7TH, 2024 MINUTES-** A motion was made by Becky to approve the minutes and seconded by Barb, The Motion carried.
- 3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 14TH, 2025 & May 9th 2025 MEETING MINUTES-** Brian made a motion to approve the March 14th meeting minutes and it was seconded by Don. The motion carried. Don made a motion to approve the May 9th meeting minutes, Susan seconded it and the motion carried.
- 4. ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO BY LAWS-** Not all Board members are able to attend all meetings in person, and often we hold meetings via Zoom. We also felt that due to the expanding workload, it would be a good idea to increase the size of the board to 11 members. In order to approve a motion, a quorum of six will be needed – in person and/or via email. Therefore we made an amendment to the By-laws approving zoom meetings and increasing the size of the board to eleven members. All members attending (5) of the current 9, were in favor. The motion carried.
- 5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS-**

PRESIDENT : Brian Finstad (2027) and Building Maintenance Manager.

VICE PRESIDENT: Doug MacDonald (2027)

TREASURER: Barb Fiandt- TEMPORARY- (2026) Museum Manager

SECRETARY: Rebecca Keith (2026) Sounds, Sweets and More Coordinator

BOARD MEMBERS:

HISTORIAN – DON MCCONKEY (2027)

GIFT SHOP/ANNUAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR- SUSAN SENINGEN (2026)

APPRECIATION EVENT COORDINATOR- LAURA URBAN

ORAL HISTORY COORDINATOR- JIM OLMSTED

DEPOT MANAGER- TOM KAMPS

MEMBERSHIP/PUBLICITY MANAGER- JAN JENSON (2027)

VACANT- (TO BE FILLED BY NEW TREASURER) (2027)

STAFF- ADMINISTRATIVE COODINATOR- LISA HALL

- 6. TREASURERS REPORT:** Barb reports that we (GWHS) currently have a balance of \$18,965.09. The Amick Historical Park had a balance of \$ 44,130.00. Doing all the construction for the park accrued \$25,000 in bills- and the current balance is \$18,305.00 with more construction to come. Jan also announced she received a mini grant from Wisconsin Historical Society for \$402 toward our Oral History Project; and also one from Lutheran Thrivent Financial for \$250 toward publicity for the Amick Park.
- 7. APPROVAL OF LUCAS CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION BILL:** The construction estimate was \$16,850 but has now gone to \$21,000 with more projects to complete. All are very satisfied with the quality of the work done. A motion was made by Brian to approve payment of the bill. Susan seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- 8. WASCOTT HISTORICAL PARK CHURCH STEEPLE REPAIR BILL:** The Board approved \$2000 to make the repairs however; more work has been required than initially anticipated and the current bill is at \$4200. Jan is checking with the Wascott Board to see if they will reimburse us for \$2100, or half of the cost. Otherwise GWHS will pay for the remainder of the repair. Brian made a motion to approve this additional expenditure and Tom seconded it. The motion carried.
- 9. LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR AMICK HISTORICAL PARK:** Barb will be checking into this.
- 10. GORDON AND WASCOTT TOWN BOARD LIASONS:** We have long thought it would be a great idea to have more of a connection between both Gordon and Wascott town boards and us. We are happy to announce Craig Golembiewski will represent Gordon and Jenny Liautaud will represent Wascott. Hopefully this will encourage more communication between the Boards and GWHS.
- 11. AMICK HISTORICAL PARK UPDATE AND BUY A BRICK FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN-** Brian has coordinated and organized all the work required for the park and Jim has painstakingly measured, moved dirt, and created what we have thus far. It has been suggested we plant flowers and plants native to the area and plant pollinator gardens. Robert has created garden plans and will help with ideas moving forward. The town of Dairyland will donate an 11,000 pound boulder to represent their history of being a part of the original town of Gordon. Barb is busy managing the Buy a Brick program. The Buy a Brick fundraiser is up and running on the website!
- 12. "SOUNDS, SWEETS & MORE" UPDATE -** Becky reports we are ready with donations for the silent auction and hopefully will have enough sweets to auction off, too. Esther June will be

performing and will have copies of her newly released album. Steve Solkela will also be performing. Hopefully all will go well!

13. CABOOSE UPDATE- Brian, Tom and Chris- Tom is donating the caboose. He has starting painting it and it should be ready to set up here in September. Tom will bring the rails and a large signal up in August and get them set in place. He will need to purchase about 45 ties and they are \$25 each from Menards. The man who will be hauling it would like to be paid for gas but otherwise will do it on his own time. The Woodhaul company went down to Brodhead to check out the caboose and gave us an estimate of \$21,000 to haul it back and set it up here. They did not charge for their trip down and back. It was noted that we cannot begin site preparation until the title to the property is cleared, a land use agreement in place, and going through Douglas County Zoning for required permits and variances. It is a complicated process, and Brian is working hard on this.

14. RAILROAD TRACKING SYSTEM- Don- Don was in contact with Brian Sykes who was able to update the system. **It's** working well. We are using the Wi-Fi from the museum and can now log in with a PIN.

15. GIFT SHOP COORDINATORS REPORT- Susan- Susan states she is ready for sales! Plenty of T-shirts, caps, books, puzzles and toys. Hopefully we will have good sales over the 4th.

16. MUSEUM MANAGER REPORT- Barb- The ceiling has been replaced in the back genealogy room of the museum. Lisa and Barb are working hard to get it all put back together. It will however be closed this next weekend but open by GGND.

17. ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATORS REPORT- Lisa- We are so fortunate to have you as part of our crew! You do so much to help everything run smoothly. Thank you. Lisa reports there are still boxes of items to inventory yet. She keeps the web page updated.

18. DEPOT MANAGERS REPORT-Tom- Lucas Concrete will be looking at the foundation of depot to determine what needs to be done to restore it. The windows are in need of repair/replacements too. Both Tom and Tammy have completely cleaned and overhauled the inside of the depot.

19. OTHER BUSINESS-

The next meetings will be-

August 8th, 2025- via Zoom 6PM

September 12th 2025-Wacott Town Hall- 6PM

October 10th, 2025-6PM via Zoom

November 14th, 2025 6PM via Zoom

December 12th, 2025 6PM via Zoom

Lisa will email zoom links prior to the meeting.

20. ADJOURN- Brian made a motion to adjourn and Barb seconded the motion. The motion carried.

We had a wonderful dedication of the Wisconsin Historical Society Marker at our new AMICK HISTORICAL SITE following the meeting. It was very well attended with numerous decedents of Antoine Gordon present. Multiple speeches and dedications were given by numerous community members including:

- Welcome- Jan Jenson, GWHS President
- Invocation –Dennis White, LCO Ojibwa University
- Prayer- Pastor Lindsay Biddle, St Croix Presbyterian Church
- Welcome of Behalf of the Town of Gordon- Craig Golembiewski- Town Chair
- Overview of Wisconsin Historical Marker Program- Fizie Heimdahl-WHS State Historical Markers Program Coordinator
- Overview of Significance of Amick in the Big Picture- Brian Finstad- GWHS Historian
- Comments by Descendants of Antoine Gordon and early Amick residents
- Unveiling of WHS Marker and reading of it-Jan Jenson- GWHS President
- Future Plans for Amick Historical Parks- Brian Finstad- GWHS Historian
- Closing Prayer-Father Louis Reddy-ST Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

This was followed by a program and social hour at the Gordon Town Hall with presentations by Jim Olmsted- Gave us an update on his Oral History Project. He continues to record stories and photos of all the people he interviews.

Ton Kamps- Gave us an update on the Caboose Project. He obtained the Caboose in 1994. And now is donating it to us.

It was a well-attended event. Thank you to Susan Seningen who organized this program and provided the refreshments.

AND A VERY SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO OUR OUT-GOING PRESIDENT, JAN JENSON, FOR COUNTLESS HOURS OF UNRECOGNIZED CONTRIBUTIONS TO HELP ASSURE THE GWHS FLOWS SEAMLESSLY. THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN SO FORTUNATE TO HAVE YOU IN THIS ROLE AND NOW YOU MOVE ONTO YOUR NEXT ROLE! THANK YOU, JAN!