

GORDON-WASCOTT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

JANUARY 09, 2026

LOCATION-ZOOM-6PM

1. ROLL CALL

Present- President Brian Finstad, Vice-President Jan Jensen, Treasurer Maureen Kelly, Secretary Becky Keith, Lisa Hall, Barb Fiandt, Don McConkey, Jenny Liautaud, Dan Carlson, Susan Seningen, Craig Golembiewski

Absent- Jim Olmstad.

2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER MINUTES-

The minutes were reviewed. Tom Kamps made a motion to approve the minutes and Don McConkey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. TREASURERS REPORT- Maureen-

We currently have \$129,382.00 in the GWHS account. The Amick account has a balance of \$21,321.52. The proposed operating budget will be discussed more as the budget was put together before GWHS was gifted a \$100,000.00 donation. While the board decides how to apply the money, it was suggested by Maureen since the GWHS is a 501c3 we move the \$100,000.00 to a five month CD at the National Bank of Commerce in Solon Springs. We also discussed the policy of expenses greater than \$200.00 to be approved by the board and less than \$200.00 to be authorized by board members. Brian will be writing checks as suggested by Maureen to avoid any conflict with spending and the treasurer's position. There was a motion made by Tom to approve all fore-mentioned; including moving the \$100,000.00 to the five month CD at NBC. The motion was seconded by Susan Seningen. The motion carried. Brian and Maureen will get together at the NBC bank this week to complete this task.

Lisa opened discussion about internet options. We have discussed the money it costs to have internet during the months we are not using it. Lisa has been looking at other internet options and came across an internet only program called MiFi. It is a prepaid no contract service and we can purchase the amount of data we need. Lisa estimates our costs would be \$35-\$45 per month. Lisa also needs a PayPal point of sales app. Tom made a motion that we purchase this internet only prepaid MiFi mobile app and the PayPal point of service. Becky seconded the motion and the motion carried.

4. WHALEN HOUSE PEST CONTROL- Squirrels are still getting into the Whalen House despite the best intentions of the squirrel hunters. It was proposed we hire a company to exterminate those currently residing in the house. Becky will do a walk around and look at tracks to see if it can be determined where they are coming from. This proposal was approved. Tom will check into exterminators.

5. DEPOT MANAGERS REPORT- TOM-

Tom made a suggestion we purchase wooden cubbies to contain the merchandise we have for sale. This could help keep items in better condition as they are currently stored in cardboard boxes. Lisa will check more into this.

A man contacted Brian about making a trade for the railroad signal we currently have. Evidently this man has the original signal from the railroad. We currently have a Chicago North West signal. It is not clear, however, if this man has the aluminum pole that is specific to the signal. Tom suggested he determine how intact the original signal still is before we consider this. Tom will call him and get more information.

Lucas concrete filled the cracks in the concrete at the depot free of charge. So far the concrete has prevented further cracking. If it does not hold the foundation of the building may need to be replaced. Brian did obtain a bid from Lucas earlier this past year, if we should need it. A solid pour concrete through Lucas would cost approximately \$18,400.

6. CABOOSE- Brian spoke with Romaine Quinns office about the land use agreement as he has still not heard back from the office. Ironically Don has an upcoming meeting with Don and will discuss it then.

Jan has found a \$5000 grant she wrote and is ready to submit to the National Railway Society. The money will be used to help with the costs toward moving the Caboose. It was discussed the Caboose will be a major focus of the spring fundraising newsletter that goes out in the mail toward the end of May. Dan also mentioned we begin to think about how to fundraise for the Wascott Museum.

Brian noted the site on which the Caboose will set (53 and Main Street) was originally a site of a Gordon Tourist Information booth. It was present in 1941 and was destroyed in a wind storm. Reportedly Bud Grant stopped there and is how he happened to find property in Gordon. Brian you are so great at uncovering all these interesting facts!

7. ORAL HISTORY PROJECT- Jim-

Jim was not present at this meeting. However currently we have interviews with Doug MacDonald, and Kate Lawler-Perry live and available to stream on our website.

8. AMICK PARK UPDATE-

The board and members discussed in more detail what it would look like if GWHS gives the Amick Park to the town. Responsibilities would need to be delineated thoroughly. We discussed looking into what we have written for other mutually shared properties. Jan suggested we contact the WTA

for a format. Craig will contact them to see what they use. Brian, Craig, Jan and Lisa will work more towards this. Barb also brought up an estimate of \$400 for liability insurance for the Amick Park. If the park does go to the Town of Gordon the insurance will be prorated.

9. WASCOTT HISTORICAL PARK- Jenny

Prior to initiating actual fundraising it was discussed we do a walk- through of the building and grounds to determine all the necessary expenditures regarding what needs to be fixed/ necessary maintenance. We can come up with a list of items and associated costs to lead into fundraising. We still need to figure out who actually owns the building/ who is in charge of it. We also need to figure out how to renew interest in the history of the community. The Wascott Community Club evidently played a large role in the "Wascott Community Project". It was decided that on March 7th several of us will do a walk- through of the museum and grounds and begin a list of needed projects. Brian, Becky, Jenny and Dan have volunteered to do this.

10. DISCUSSION OF LARGE DONATION AND SETTING OF BOARD RETREAT-

It was decided that we should take time and intention in deciding how to use the large donation given the GWHS. We will sit down as a group and hash out capital improvement projects without rushing into anything. It was decided to meet on May 16th at 11 AM at Becky's house. We will have a potluck lunch then settle in to discuss ideas we may have. Hopefully we will arrive at future plans. We also discussed ideas for future events at the Amick Park. Included in these is the idea of a Fur Trade Rondevous/re-enactment.

Brian was contacted by Camp Roundelay. They currently have a large canoe that was one of three built for a voyage from Montreal to Duluth. It might be interesting to use the canoe and its journey as an exhibit at the park at some point.

We also discussed the idea of a "Porchfest" such as Superior has done for five years. It is a community gathering where anyone and everyone can come together to celebrate through music.

Brian was also approached by a family member of Victoria Lidberg. She was a local gal who met an acrobat "The Crazy Sailor" in Superior. They married and she ran off with him and joined his acrobatic act. Trunks of her belongings have been donated to the Historical Society in Douglas County. She is buried in the Gordon Cemetery.

11. 2026 CALENDER OF EVENTS-

Our next board meeting will be on March 13 at 6PM via zoom.

The annual meeting and presentation will be June 19. Meeting at 4 PM and program to follow. Don has a new neighbor who is an archeologist and will talk to him about the possibility of being our program presenter. There is already excitement and folks are beginning to register for the 2026 Gravel Bike Race. We are excited for this year's calender of events!

12. ADJOURNEMENT – Barb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Dan. The meeting was adjourned.

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