

March 13, 2026
Gordon-Wascott Historical Society Agenda
Location: Zoom
Time: 6PM

1. Roll Call

Present: Brian Finstad, Jan Jenson, Maureen Kelly, Tom Kamps, Donnie McConkey, Dan Carlson, Jim Olmsted, Lisa Hall, Jenny Liautaud. Quorum met.

Absent: Susan Seningen, Rebecca Keith, Barb Fiandt, Craig Golembiewski

2. Approval of Agenda

Donnie made a motion to approve the agenda; Tom seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Maureen had a change to the 1/9/2026 meeting minutes and she will email Lisa to make the change. Maureen made a motion to approve the minutes with the condition of updating the change; Tom seconded. Motion carried. UPDATE 3/18/2026: Maureen/Lisa clarified 1/9/2026 meeting minutes are accurate as is, so no change made.

4. Treasurer's Report (Maureen)

- It's been a quiet January and February. Maureen did pay the West Bend insurance bill for Amick Historical Park insurance. We have a bank balance of \$153,150 (less \$407 for West Bend). The Amick Historical Park & Caboose checking account stands at \$10,000. The Amick Historical Park & Caboose savings account stands at \$11,000. The General Operating Expenses account stands at \$32,000.
- GWHS has two separate accounts: general operating expenses & special projects (which includes Amick Historical Park and Caboose - each with a separate line item).

5. Finalize 2026 Calendar of Events (Brian/Lisa)

- Events, Dates, Times, Town Hall Reservations, etc. (See attached)
Events, dates, times, etc., were clarified. Lisa will clean up the list and email to board members/Jenny/Craig. She will also use the list to update the GWHS website and reserve town halls as needed.
- Gravel Bike Race - Mark Howard will coordinate this entire event, but it is the responsibility of GWHS to purchase liability insurance. Jan made a motion to approve paying the insurance; Jim seconded. Motion carried. May need to switch insurance to MertzRookie (if they sponsor the race).
- Brian indicated there is the potential for this race to merge with other northern bike races, i.e., Cable. Mark Howard wants to keep doing this and grow the event with donations to GWHS!

6. 2026 Museum/Depot Staffing & Cleaning

- Teri will be returning to work most Saturday's (but not July 4). Tom is willing to cover the depot on July 4, but we will need 1 more person in the depot and 1 person to cover the museum that day; Lisa usually covers both buildings on Sunday, July 5.

- We'll need volunteers for Sunday's, any Saturday's Teri cannot work, and the three weekends Wascott is open. Tom, Jan, Donnie, Maureen, and Brian are open to covering shifts. Dan's availability is limited due to work; Jim's schedule will probably not be able to accommodate.
- Lisa will continue to send the weekly email reminder
- Jenny will reach out to the boy scouts to see if there is any interest in volunteering to earn a badge.
- Jan will add specific dates/tasks to the membership mailing in hopes of acquiring more volunteers.
- Tom may have another person interested in getting involved with GWHS
- All agreed to meet at 9am on May 16 (prior to the 11am retreat) to open/clean the museum & depot.
- Jenny gets Wascott ready w/Michelle (Town Clerk Jeanette's daughter). Additional help needed will be determined after walk-around on April 2.

7. Whalen House

- Pest Control-squirrel problem, Brian will stuff chicken wire into the outside hole, but permanent fix coming.
- Approval of Exterior Door Replacement & knob (Brian shared his proposals)
We have historical screen doors/hardware, but there is so much rot around the door frame, east side of building. Brian shared his door replacement proposal examples from Home Depot (wood or steel options). All agreed wood is preferred for historical purposes. Brian also found historically-accurate brass doorknob set for \$385. Tom made a motion to approve the purchase of the wood door from Home Depot \$998 and the brass knob for \$385; Jan seconded. Motion carried.
- Discussion of Painting Plan (see attached) Brian shared a proactive maintenance plan for discussion only. All this it is a great plan, but there are more maintenance issues than just paint. The plan needs to be fluid/flexible and reprioritize as needed. More discussion to follow regarding \$, tasks, etc., on May 16.
- Electronic capability for Research Room. Lisa discussed ideas to start incorporating electronic research to include items not on display, on the website or Facebook page. This would include having a laptop (or tablet) in the genealogy room with folders for specific items, i.e., Antoine's patents, non-public oral interviews, etc.; creating signs with QR codes & steering people to our FB page and website. Brian mentioned PastPerfect which is a museum software. Lisa will do further research and reach out to the Cable Historical Society as they use the software. Jim will check with his program regarding possible grant opportunities for PastPerfect software capabilities. We already use CLIO, but probably need to be doing so more often. Donnie has 600 log patents, Albert Stuntz diary to add to Digital Research library.

8. Depot Manager Report (Tom)

- Tom took more stuff up there in the depot and hung up (these items were already inventoried & cataloged)
- Would like lighting in the freight room, over the gift shop cubbies, in the elevator, above the rice thrasher and would like an estimate from an electrician.

- Even though Lucas Concrete had added cement to the cracks in the foundation, it is cracked again. This definitely needs to be on the maintenance list!
- Lisa is planning to pick up the cubbies for the gift shop.
- Lisa needs a description for rice thrasher (Brian indicated there is a newspaper article - Lisa will try to find the article which includes A.J. Platteter or Tom Smith (Evening Telegram))
- Tom would also like another floor fan & a sign for depot indicating it's part of GWHS
- Tom is planning to make a screen door for the depot
- Tom called railroad guy regarding signal and got no response

9. Caboose (See Attachment)

- Land Use Update (Brian) Donnie spoke to Romaine Quinn, but finally worked through the process, Brian got word they are approving it! Haven't received it yet, though. Brian shared Caboose Project list. He assumed Douglas Co Zoning would want a building permit for the Caboose, so he called Zack. Since the caboose will be put on state land (we will have agreements w/state and Town of Gordon), Zack agreed a building permit is not needed!
- Once all signed agreements are in hand, we'll set a meeting specific to the caboose needs (physical/material tasks).
- Tom will get estimates on fill, but needs exact size of area, etc. Jim mentioned contractors are sometimes looking to get rid of fill or reduced price for fill. Tom was going to check with Solon Springs Concrete. Dan mentioned North Shore Track as they buy through Kimmet in Superior. Danny Haskins in Solon Springs might be an option, too.
- Tom is going to the Spooner Railroad Museum to check on railroad ties. He also needs to talk to Canadian National RR. Another option might be Menards or a place south of Madison (which he would rather not do since he would need to transport up here). Dan has a possible contact in Duluth for some of the items needed. Dan and Tom will get together and discuss.
- Donor Campaign (Jan) - Jan submitted a grant application to the National Railroad Heritage Foundation for \$5000. The caboose fundraising will be the focus of membership mailing in May. If you have names to add to potential donor list, get to Jan NO LATER than April 1.

10. Amick Park Update (Brian)

- MOU update - Brian indicated the Caboose, Amick Historical Park, Depot and Museum will all be included in the MOU once we receive land use agreement for the caboose. Once all received, we'll send the MOU to the Town of Gordon for approval.
- Flag Pole Proposal (See attached proposal)
 - Instead of displaying the Voyageur canoe at AHP for the 250th anniversary, how would everyone feel about a flag pole dedication instead? It would include the following:
 - 1865 flag/35 star flag (Brian already has) dedicated to Edward Gordon's civil war service (1865 was also time of Amick!)
 - 25' Flag pole-cemented into the ground (\$2,125) assuming it doesn't interfere with power lines. Brian will verify height capability w/Dahlberg Light & Power.

- ~3' concrete pedestal (made by Lucas Concrete)
- 20" x14" plaque (\$1650) describing the flag's dedication on this 250th anniversary . . .
- Discussion ensued of
 - ✓ Proper flag procedures: who will raise/lower the flag, need to take down @ dusk if no lights, due to amount of text we would probably need the largest bronze plaque for base of flag; Jan mentioned the possibility of getting mockups of text on plaque; add to text regarding this is dedicated on the 250th anniversary to Edward Gordon . . .
 - ✓ Dedication details: flag will be raised on Friday, July 3, 4pm, taken down and reraised on Sunday, July 6, 9am dedication ceremony.

Jan made a motion to approve the purchase of 25' flag pole, 3' concrete pedestal (price TBD), 20"x14" plaque for Amick Historical Park. Maureen seconded. Motion carried.

- Sidewalks / Accessibility - need to be handicapped accessible, pedestals for markers, flag pole in concrete. Should all concrete projects be done at the same time for cost effectiveness? Another option is to prep & pour cement, but use bolts marking specific spots. Jim, Brian, and other interested board members will walk through this spring to look @ sign placements, utilities, etc.
- Installation of Bricks - center of the plaza (bricks are currently housed in museum); hopefully when people see them, it will generate more interest in buying bricks!

TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING:

- Presbyterian Church Bench Donation
- Wigwam Update
- Picnic Shelters
- Boulder
- Approval of Interpretive List
- Princess O-Me-Me Interpretive Panel

11. Wascott Historical Park (Jenny)

- Not much to report. Walk through date changed from March 14 to April 2, 10am

12. Oran History Project Update (Jim)

- Brian edited the 2nd Doug MacDonald interview. Jim will get it ready and send to Lisa for the website.
- Purchased remaining video camera equipment; can leave equipment @ museum; (video equipment will be used for photo album, stamps, etc., not necessarily for interviewee to be on camera)
- Jim and Dan need to get together for an interview
- Still waiting on numerous people to get back to him; in the future Jim will add a caveat to paperwork regarding response date

13. Reminder of Board Retreat:

- May 16th @ 11AM at Becky Keith's, 14229 Riverbend Circle, Gordon
- Meet at museum/depot, 9am to clean prior to retreat

Upcoming meetings:

- Caboose meeting after MOUs have been signed
- December Zoom meetings will be changed to Monday, December 7 (all future Zoom meetings will be scheduled on Mondays)
- Annual meeting - Donnie will confirm archeologist friend and will reach out to Susan to confirm) He will also let Lisa know details. A back up plan for the Annual Meeting presentation is Andrea Witmer, historical author.

14. Adjourn

- Donnie made a motion to adjourn at 8:07pm; Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lisa Hall
Recorder