



Bellingham Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes, Monday, April 28, 2025

Location: Bellingham Public Library & Zoom

Attendance

In Person Present Members: Rick Marcoux, Jeffrey Prescott, Franco Tocchi, Lauren Hummel, Bernadette Rivard, Jennifer Russo

Members Present on Zoom: Steve Joanis

Members Absent: none

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rick Marcoux at 5:08 pm.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

Jeff Prescott made a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting. The motion was seconded by Lauren Hummel and was unanimously adopted.

Board Reorganization

Rick Marcoux made a motion to nominate Jeff Prescott as Commission Chair. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Russo and unanimously approved.

Jeff Prescott made a motion to nominate Jennifer Russo as Commission Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Rick Marcoux and unanimously approved.

Rick Marcoux made a motion to nominate Bernadette Rivard as Commission Secretary. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Prescott and unanimously approved.

Invoices paid since last meeting

Date	Vendor	Amount	Description
03/26/2025	Bob Christie	285.00	Replace Boiler Room Smoke Detector
03/26/2025	Bernadette Rivard/Ebay	14.19	Yankee Magazine Advertisement

Deposits made since last meeting \$0.00

Correspondence: None

Old Business

Crimpville Comments- Spring issue topic, Spring (Sports, gardening, etc). Zak Jacobs our Dean intern is working on the draft. We hope to get the issue out in late May or early June.

Update on Hartford Ave Site Visit: Rick reported that the report is still pending.

Update on Larry Cibley Project – Jennifer reported that project has not been approved, and has gotten some push back from the School Committee.

New Business

Metal Detector Purchase – Rick Marcoux made a motion that the Commission approve up to \$1500 for the purchase of a metal detector. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Russo and unanimously approved. This purchase will also include 6 safety vests for Commission members to wear when doing this work.

Signage for the Museum – Rick Marcoux made a motion that the Commission approve up to \$2000 for the purchase of new signage for the building. The motion was seconded by Franco Tocchi and unanimously approved. Bernadette will coordinate with the town and contact Signs Plus in Milford to discuss signage options.

Memorial Day Parade Scavenger Hunt – The museum will open May 18th, the date of the Memorial Day Parade and offer a Scavenger Hunt Program. **Bernadette Rivard made a motion to approve up to \$100 for prizes and supplies for the event. The motion was seconded by Rick Marcoux and unanimously approved.**

Social Media Promotion – Bernadette has invited all commission members to be admins of the Commission Facebook page. Marjorie and Rose will be added as Community Managers. Jennifer Russo is our social media manager and all content posts should be sent to her for posting. All Commissioners and Community Managers are authorized to post information about the museum opening and closing, as well as any timely news that needs to be shared immediately.

Cemeteries – Jennifer Russo requested that we collaborate with the Cemetery Committee to find out more about why some of the cemeteries are in a deteriorating condition. We will contact the Cemetery Committee to see if we can have a meeting with them to discuss.

Planning Board Meetings – Jennifer Russo informed the Commission that she spoke at the NECC Planning Board meeting about the potential importance of the Native American history of the proposed building site. Jeff Prescott indicated that the planning board is discussing the future of the Marsh/Thayer Tavern, 182 Hartford Avenue, a circa 1748 building that is on the MACRIS site, as being demolished as part of the Meehan project on Hartford Avenue. If this property moves forward with a demolition plan, the Commission should reach out to the property owners to, at a minimum, arrange a time to take photographs inside and out of the property.

Rick Marcoux made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 pm. It was seconded by Franco Tocchi and unanimously adopted.

Next meeting date: June 16, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Rivard