



Bellingham Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes, June 16, 2025

Location: Bellingham Public Library & Zoom

Attendance

In Person Present Members: Rick Marcoux, Jeffrey Prescott, Franco Tocchi, Steve Joanis, Bernadette Rivard

Members Present on Zoom: Jennifer Russo and Lauren Hummel

Members Absent: none

Guests: Billy Coniaris, former owner of Pete's Bluebird

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeff Prescott at 5:02 pm.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

Rick Marcoux made a motion to delay the approval the April minutes until the July meeting so edits could be finished.

The motion was seconded by Franco Tocchi and was unanimously adopted.

Financial Report

Invoices paid since last meeting

4/30/2025	Amazon Business	1207.99	Metal Detector
4/30/2025	Amazon Business	16.13	Metal Detector Digger
5/5/2025	Amazon Business	51.96	Labels for Scavenger Hunt
5/11/2025	Amazon Business	97.87	High Visibility Vests
6/6/2025	Amazon Business	90.24	Photo Albums

Municipal Budget

Starting Balance \$7000.00 Expenditures 4614.09 Ending Balance \$2358.91

Expenditures by Month

July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1766.12	163.30	0.00	206.19	44.81	697.29	00.00	00.00	299.19	0.00	1373.95	90.24

Gift Fund Balance \$2179.23

Correspondence: None

Old Business

Demolition Delay – Steve brought to the attention of the group information he received from the Mass Historical Society about a bill filed in the Mass Senate in January that has concerns for the local autonomy of municipalities. Steve will bring a draft of a proposed demolition delay document that we could bring to the town (probably through the Town Administrator, Select Board or Town Counsel's office) to determine if we wish to proceed with proposing that Bellingham adopt a Demolition Delay ByLaw.

New Logo/Seal – Jennifer designed a new logo/seal for the Historical Commission. After the recommended edit changing the Established 1974 language to Founded 1972, **Rick Marcoux made a motion to accept the new logo/seal.** **The motion was seconded by Steve Joanis and unanimously adopted.**

Signs – Bernadette brought very rough drafts of the proposed signs for the Common Street and main entrance to the museum. The drafts will be updated with the new logo and submitted to Signs Plus for them to send us proofs before final approval. **Bernadette made a motion to approve the draft document of the design of the signs. It was seconded by Rick and unanimously adopted.**

Crimpville Comments- The new issue of the Crimpville Comments has been published and printed. Print copies need to be mailed and the electronic copy needs to be sent to the subscribers to our Constant Contact email list.

Hartford Ave Site Visit: Preliminary report has been issued. Jennifer is working on a summary for the Bellingham Bulletin. The summary will be run by the consultant before it's release.

Update on Larry Cibley Project – Jennifer would like to work with other down departments (Town Common Trustees or Select Board/Town Administrator) to discuss options for honoring Larry Cibley and the Bellingham Blackouts.

Bernadette will put Jennifer in touch with someone from the Town Common Trustees.

New Business

Cemeteries – The Cemetery Commission is meeting on July 8th. Rick and Jeff stated they intend to go to the meeting. Jennifer is also interested in attending.

Family Histories – Lauren brought up that the Family History indexes are not printed at the museum nor are they in the Google Drive. In addition, she recommended that we purchase individual binders for each family, regardless of how little information we currently have as we can grow the content as time goes on. Bernadette indicated she would upload the index to the google drive and purchase additional binders.

Application for Donation of the Pete's Bluebird Sign – Billy Coniaris attended the meeting to discuss his application to donate one side of the Pete's Bluebird sign to the Historical Commission, with the stipulation that the sign be auctioned by the town and any proceeds from the auction be deposited into the Historical Commission's Gift Fund. **Franco Tocchi made a motion to accept the donation. The motion was seconded by Steve Joanis and unanimously adopted.** After the acceptance of the donation by the Commission, the donation still needs to be approved by the Select Board at their upcoming meeting.

Website – Jennifer has proposed that the Museum have it's own website, separate from the Historical Commission. The Town Historical Commission website can provide a link to the museum site. On the museum site we would be able to better organize content, add photos and other museum content. The Commission already owns the www.bellinghamhistory.org domain. Steve made a motion to spend up to \$200 per year to add Word Press Web Hosting to our pair.com domain to create the website. Rick seconded the motion and it was unanimously adopted.

Steve Joanis made a motion to adjourn the meeting 6:20 pm. It was seconded by Rick Marcoux and unanimously adopted.

Next meeting date: July 21, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Rivard