



Bellingham Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes, August 18, 2025

Location: Bellingham Public Library & Zoom

Attendance

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

Members Present on Zoom: None

Members Absent: none

Guests: Richard Labonte, model ship builder and Billy Coniaris

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeff Prescott at 5:00 pm

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

Rick Marcoux made a motion to approve the July minutes. The motion was seconded by Lauren Hummel and unanimously approved.

Financial Report

Invoices paid since last meeting
none

Municipal Budget

Starting Balance	\$9000.00	Expenditures	1338.80	Ending Balance	\$7661.20
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Expenditures by Month

July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1338.80											

Gift Fund

Starting Balance	\$2179.23	Deposits \$80.00	Expenditures \$0.00	Balance \$2259.33
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Income by Month

July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
0	80.00										

Correspondence: None

Bernadette made motion to skip to the agenda item for the presentation by model ship builder Richard Labonte. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Russo and unanimously approved.

Richard Labonte, lifelong Bellingham resident and model ship builder spoke to the group about his model ships. He has completed replicas of the USS Constitution and Mayflower II ships and is currently working on a Revolutionary War ship. Bernadette invited Richard to the meeting to discuss the possibility of a joint program between the Historical Commission and the Library sometime next year in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. After discussion it was decided that Bernadette will work with Richard on attempting to locate a speaker or some other relevant topic for a joint

program to be held in the late spring of 2026. For reference the dimensions of the display case for each of the two ships is 64" high x 40" long x 19" deep.

Old Business

Pete's Bluebird Sign Auction – Jesse said he'd get back to us soon on the options.

Demolition Delay Discussion – Steve's summary was sent to Town Planner Rob Lussier for review. Jeff will follow up with Rob.

Loan of Photos to the School Department – Jen Russo will reach out to Dave Cutler for an update.

1198 South Main Street update – Bernadette and/or Jeff will write a formal request letter to Mr. Khoury asking for access to the building so the Historical Commission can take photos and other documentation of this historic building.

Historic Huddle Group Meeting Plan – Franco has set a tentative date of October 18th for this meeting of local Historical Commissions/Societies. The group decided to investigate the possibility of hosting the meeting either at the Old Town Hall or Arcand Room so that there will be enough room for all, but attendees will still be near the museum to tour it too. Bernadette will contact Town Hall to find out the process for using those spaces.

Crimpsville Comments- Discussed plan for fall 2025 issue and we will begin to work on content for Bellingham at the time of the American Revolution as a theme for the next issue. This issue will focus on Bellingham Revolutionary War Soldiers and their role in the war, using information that Lauren and Jeff found in doing the Rev250 research for the Metrowest Boston Visitors Bureau.

Follow-up on Whiting Family Donations – Jeff and Lauren will compile a list of the donations. Once that list is complete, Bernadette will set up an appointment with Helen for her (and or Dale and George) to come by to fill out the paperwork.

00 Bellingham's First Fire Truck – Rick informed the group that he obtained an estimate of \$80K to restore the truck to operational, NOT museum quality status. He needs to get one more quote or refusal of an offer of a quote and then we can move forward with a plan on how to fund the restoration.

New Business

Discussion on donation of Pete's Bluebird broiler – After discussion with Billy Coniaris about the potential donation, the discussion and any vote was tabled until a donation form was submitted for consideration by current owners Paul and Julie Rogers.

Social Media Update – Jennifer updated the group on the ever-growing number of followers, page visits, views, and interactions on our Facebook page. Bernadette indicated that she will verify if the Facebook page is being archived by the town, and if it is not, to arrange for it to be done.

Film about Bellingham – Jennifer Russo brought to our attention a film that was created for the Town of Norwood by 10th Studios. It will be screened at a local theater. She'd like us to investigate options for creating a similar type project for Bellingham in the upcoming years.

Signs for Artifacts on the Museum Grounds – Photographs will be taken of the items to help identify them and we will work on a plan for how to best display signage so people know what the items are.

Possible 250th Program/Display/Presentation – Bernadette will work with Jeff on a Rev250 display at the museum that will take the place of the school photo wall. The info from the display will come from the Crimpsville Comments articles as well as the information we gather for the Metrowest Boston Visitor's Bureau.

Update on the Revolutionary War People/Places Project of the Metrowest Boston Visitors Bureau - We will work to submit up to 4 profiles of Bellingham Revolutionary War People or Places to them for their project. Lauren and Jeff will work on that project.

50th Anniversary of 911 Emergency Calling – Rick will be working with the police on a project to commemorate the 50th anniversary of 911 Emergency Calling.

Steve Joanis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm. It was seconded by Franco Tocchi and unanimously adopted.

Next meeting date: September 15, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Rivard