



Bellingham Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes, September 15, 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

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 August minutes. The motion was seconded by Franco Tocchi and unanimously approved.

Financial Report

Invoices paid since last meeting

none

Municipal Budget

Starting Balance	\$9000.00	Expenditures	1567.61	Ending Balance	\$7432.39
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Expenditures by Month

July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1338.80	101.81	127.00									

Gift Fund

Starting Balance	\$2179.23	Deposits	\$120.00	Expenditures	\$0.00	Balance	\$2309.33
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Income by Month

July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
0	80.00	40.00									

Bills received but not paid: None

Correspondence: None

Old Business

Pete's Bluebird Sign Auction – We plan on proceeding with a paper sealed bid process for the sign. Bernadette will work with Jesse and Jeff to hopefully get the auction information published soon, get a notice in the November Bellingham Bulletin, as well as on the Town Website and social media, with the details on how to bid, with the intention of opening the sealed bids at our November meeting.

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

Loan of Photos to the School Department – Jen Russo will reach out to Dave Cutler for an update on getting the photo of Joe DiPietro, and hopefully we can get the display to them by the end of the year so that the photo wall and that corner of the museum can be updated for a new display celebrating America's 250th.

1198 South Main Street update – Jennifer and/or Jeff will write a letter to Mr. Khoury asking for access to the building to take photographs to document this historic meeting.

Historic Huddle Group Meeting Plan On October 18th at 1pm we will be hosting a meeting of local Historical Commissions/Societies. The Arcand Room will be available to us if the attendance exceeds the number of people that can comfortably fit at the museum.

Crimpville Comments- This issue is an introduction to the Revolutionary War and the role of the Bellingham militia on April 19,1775; Bellingham Selectmen's January 1775 vote to support disowning Great Britain's authority over the colonies; and a story about a smallpox outbreak at the time. Other topics for the issue will be a profile of John Lundvall and one other deceased former Historical Commission Chair or active member. We are hoping to find a good copy of the muster roll to scan and include, as well as a 1700s era map that lists names of the families and where they lived, especially those that appear on the muster roll. Also photographs might be included of the homes of those soldiers, if we can find them in MACRIS or other sources.

Follow-up on Whiting Family Donations – Jeff and Lauren complied a list of the donations and Bernadette will get back in touch with Helen, asking her to coordinate with Jeff and Lauren a time to come to the museum to fill out the forms with detailed descriptions.

00 Bellingham's First Fire Truck – No update, still waiting on a 3rd quote.

USS Constitution & Mayflower II Ship Miniatures Program – Bernadette will follow up with Richard Labonte on a late winter/early spring joint program with the library.

Signs for Artifacts on the Museum Grounds – Photographs still need to 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.

Update on the Revolutionary War People/Places Project of the Metrowest Boston Visitors Bureau – We will be notifying them that the only in-person sites to visits are the locations of the graves of the Revolutionary War Soldiers.

New Business

Procedures for follow-up on inquiries to the Historical Commission

- Any inquiries received by museum volunteers or commissioners by in person visitors, callers and email that cannot be resolved immediately, should be shared with all commission members by email.
 - Make sure that history@bellinghamma.org is also included in the email so there is a formal record in the town email account about the inquiry for formal record keeping.
- Any visitors to the museum that have interesting stories to share should have some minimal notes taken about the interaction and note the contact information of the visitor. These interactions should be shared with all commission members and the history@bellinghamma.org via email so the interaction is documented.
- Any commission member that either knows the answer, or has the capacity to research and respond to the inquiry should reply all that they will be taking care of the inquiry.
- Once the inquiry is answered, the answer should be shared with all commission members so that we all have the opportunity to learn from the research of others.

Bruce Lord Project – Parts of the Bruce Lord collection have been inventories (described) in an Excel Worksheet. Other parts have not been completed and the file folders are not numbered. Until we get that project accomplished, please be careful to return the folders to the same place where they came from.

Unsung Heroes List – Bernadette will compile a list of all of the Chair's of the Historical Commission going back to the early 1970s so we have a comprehensive list of who to potentially profile in the Crimpville Comments.

Veterans Day Involvement – Members inquired about the Town's Veterans Day event. Bernadette indicated the ceremony is at the library and she would let Jim Hastings know that if any assistance was needed he could reach out to us and we'd do our best to find someone to assist.

Discussion on donation of Pete's Bluebird broiler – We have not received an application from any party to formally donate the boiler to the Historical Commission. **However, upon discussion a motion was made by Steve Joanis to preemptively and respectfully decline any offer of the broiler to the Commission. The motion was seconded by Rick Marcoux and unanimously approved.**

Steve Joanis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm. It was seconded by Franco Tocchi and unanimously adopted.

Next meeting date: October 20, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Rivard