



Cass County Historical Commission

120 N. Broadway - Cassopolis, MI 49031
Phone: (269) 445-4420 Fax: (269) 445-8978

MEETING AGENDA

CASS COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING
60525 Decatur Road
Cassopolis, Michigan

Thursday, October 9 – 5:30 p.m.

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of the Agenda– **ACTION ITEM**
- D. Approval of the September Regular Meeting Minutes – **ACTION ITEM**
- E. ~~Financial Report – September – ACTION ITEM~~
- F. ~~Bills – September - ACTION ITEM~~
- G. Report from the Chair
- H. Old Business
- I. New Business
- J. Committee Reports
 - a. Newton House
 - i. MSU-Newton House Update
 - ii. Fall Festival Update
- K. Privileges of the Floor
- L. Public Comment

*Amended
Agenda,
No Financials
Available.*

Next Meeting – Thursday, November 13, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

OFFICERS

Chair- Bernie Williamson ~ Vice Chair- Darren Bettinger ~ Secretary/Treasurer- Jane Bergman

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Amy Davidhizer ~ Dianna McGrew ~ Derek Carr ~ Nate Robinson ~ Mary Howie ~ Della Bundle

2025-2026

CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Jane Bergman, Secretary/Treasurer 20501 Cara Ave. Cassopolis, MI 49031 269-845-1573 Jbergmanand7@yahoo.com Term expires: June 30, 2027	Nate Robinson 52507 Gards Prairie Rd. Decatur, MI 49045 269-228-1045 nerobinson73@gmail.com Term expires: June 30, 2026
Darren Bettinger, Vice Chair 64489 M-62 Cassopolis, MI 49031 574-306-8959 Djbett74@outlook.com Term expires: June 30, 2027	Derek Carr 69089 Maple Street Edwardsburg, MI 49112 Carrderek93@gmail.com Term expires: June 30, 2028
Amy Davidhizar 18525 Warren Rd. Decatur, MI 49045 618-303-3161 amyeast34@gmail.com Term expires: June 30, 2026	Della Bundle 24081 Jefferson Center Street Cassopolis, MI 49031 720-272-8408 imdellajune@gmail.com Term expires: June 30, 2028
Mary Howie 23768 Davis Lake Street Edwardsburg, MI 49112 574-361-2422 mguljas8491@gmail.com Term Expires: June 30, 2026	Bernie Williamson, Chair 26260 M-60 Cassopolis, MI 49031 269-445-9100 bernie@northstarlandscape.net Term Expires: June 30, 2027
Dianna McGrew 20500 Cara Ave. Cassopolis, MI 49031 269-358-4497 mcgrewassessing@gmail.com Term expires: June 30, 2028	<i>*Note: Yellow highlights reflect Commissioners who will be up for reappointment NEXT year!</i> <i>Just an early heads-up! 😊</i>

**CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: September 11, 2025

Time: 5:32

Board Members Present: Bernie Williamson __X__, Darren Bettinger __X__, Jane Bergman __X__, Della Bundle __X__, Derek Carr _____, Amy Davidhizar __X__, Mary Howie _____, Dianna McGrew _____, Nate Robinson __X__

Chairperson Bernie Williamson called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

Chairperson Williamson asked that the agenda be amended with an additional item under Old Business. She called for time to be allotted to discuss the history wall at the county courthouse.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made by Nate Robinson to approve the agenda as amended for the September 11, 2025 meeting of the Cass County Historical Commission. Seconded by Darren Bettinger and the motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made by Darren Bettinger to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Della Bundle and the motion carried.

Financial Report: A motion was made by Nate Robinson to approve the August, 2025 financial report. Seconded by Darren Bettinger and the motion carried.

Bills: A motion was made by Della Bundle to approve the August bills. There was a roll call vote, it was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Report from the Chair: Chairperson Williamson informed board members that she had filed a request for the same amount of funds that was budgeted for the 2024/2025 fiscal year for 2025/2026.

Old Business:

1. History Timeline in the Historic Courthouse - Chairperson Williamson explained that the county administration had not yet received the Pokagon Band's corrected information to add to the history timeline. Della Bundle will contact Julie Dye about their information for the timeline.

New Business:

1. Quotes from Benson Tree Service: Chairperson Williamson explained that Nate Robinson had obtained two separate quotes from Benson Tree Service for felling six trees at the Newton House, and for removal of the debris. She asked for board members to vote on whether to contract with Benson Tree Service for each service.

Amy Davidhizar made a motion for the Historical Commission to contract with Benson Tree Service for the removal six trees at the Newton House. Darren Bettinger seconded and a roll call vote revealed unanimous support.

Nate Robinson then made a motion for the Historical Commission to contract with Benson Tree Service for the removal of debris from the trees. Amy Davidhizar seconded and a roll call vote resulted in unanimous support.

Committee Reports:

1. The Historic Newton House: Vice Chairperson Bettinger provided an update on the proposal made to Michigan State University. There have been three conversations and several options have been discussed. MSU prefers that the house go to a government entity, perhaps to the township. The Historical Society would like to explore offering a Right of Revision so that if the Society ended the house would return to MSU.

Plans for the Fall Festival are going well and may be ahead of schedule.

Privileges of the Floor:

Vice Chairperson Bettinger provided an update on progress at the Red Brick School. Funding has been secured for a new back door and ramp to be constructed at the school. The contractor pointed out that the roof may need to be replaced and the Society will get a second opinion and estimates on the cost. Chairperson Williamson learned that there may be funds available for the school from the estate of Jean Schultz,

Vice Chairperson Bettinger also informed board members that some of the chinking had been done at the Log Cabin.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Secretary,
Jane L. Bergman