



Cass County Historical Commission

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

MEETING AGENDA

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP HALL
24725 Jefferson Center Street
Cassopolis, Michigan

**CONTINUED
CHANGE OF
LOCATION!!**

Thursday, July 9, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of the Agenda– **ACTION ITEM**
- D. Approval of the May Regular Meeting Minutes – **ACTION ITEM**
- E. Financial Report – May and June – **ACTION ITEM**
- F. Bills – May and June - **ACTION ITEM**
- G. Report from the Chair –
- H. Old Business
 - a. BOC Presentation / MSU Presentation (Friday – 06/10/26)
 - b. Broadband at Newton House
 - c. CCHC – Archiving System
 - d. Cass County Fair Booth- August 2 – August 8 - Display Discussion
 - e. Re-appointments Confirmed
- I. New Business
- J. Committee Reports
 - a. Newton House
- K. Privileges of the Floor
- L. Public Comment

Next Meeting – August 13, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.

OFFICERS

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

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

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, 2029
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, 2029	Della Bundle 24081 Jefferson Center Street Cassopolis, MI 49031 720-272-8408 jmdellajune@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, 2029	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	

CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 14, 2026

Time: 5:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bernie Williamson __X__, Jane Bergman __X__, Darren Bettinger __X__, Della Bundle __X__, Derek Carr _____, Amy Davidhizar _____, Mary Howie __X__, Dianna McGrew __X__, Nate Robinson __X__

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bernie Williamson at 5:30pm. The meeting was held at the Jefferson Township hall at 24725 Jefferson Center Street.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Darren Bettinger to approve the agenda. Della Bundle seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made by Della Bundle to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2026 meeting of the Historical Commission. Nate Robinson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Financial Report: Chairperson Williamson explained that the county's administration had expressed concern that their records show that the Historical Commission is routinely overspending its budget. Williamson and the board members of the Historical Commission are skeptical of this finding and suggest that the county's schedule for the distribution of funds results in a shortfall on paper. Williamson will discuss this issue with the county administrator.

Nate Robinson made a motion to approve the financial report. Dianna McGrew seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Bills: A motion was made by Dianna McGrew to approve the bills paid in April. Mary Howie seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote, it was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Report from the Chair: Earlier while discussing the financial report, Chairperson Williamson had mentioned that she intended, and board members agreed, that she should seek approval from the administrator for the commission to contract with Midwest Energy Corporation for

broadband services at the Newton House. The Historical Commission could then cancel the current security contract.

Old Business:

Broadband at the Newton House: In addition to the discussion reported above, Chairman Williamson explained that her initial request will be for an additional \$50 per month to cover the cost of broadband services at the Newton House and, longer term, possibly request \$300 to put the lines underground.

Proposed Archiving System: Chairperson Williamson reported that the initial Zoom meeting of the county's history focused organizations was sparsely attended, but a second meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. At the initial meeting, three systems were identified, two of which are history specific. As a first step, the organizations interested in collaborating are requesting demonstrations of each of the three systems in order to compare them.

CCHC Commissioner Term Expiration - Requests for Reappointment: Chairperson Williamson reminded board members of the procedure for making a request to be reappointed to the Historical Commission.

New Business:

Cass County Fair Booth (August 2-8): Chairperson Williamson explained that the county had not yet paid the registration fee for the booth, but that our space is being held.

CCHC Budget Issues: See above summaries under Financial Report and Report from the Chair.

Committee Reports:

The Historic Newton House: Board members reported on the recent tea party held at the Newton House on May 9. Fifty-one guests attended and the Historical Society cleared in excess of of \$1,200.

Privileges of the Floor:

Jane Bergman asked if the board should inquire about Derek Carr's continued interest in serving.

Vice Chairman Darren Bettinger reported that he had met with a man that does restoration work who will provide quotes on painting the cupola and on repairing the kitchen ceiling at the Newton House. Bettinger had also received a quote on cedar shingles for the Red Brick School that he believes is quite reasonable. Bettinger reported that discussions about the bird exhibit at the Log Cabin were continuing and that there would likely be a vote on what to do.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Secretary, Jane L. Bergman