



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, August 13, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of the Agenda– **ACTION ITEM**
- D. Approval of the August Regular Meeting Minutes – **ACTION ITEM**
- E. Financial Report – June & July – **ACTION ITEM**
- F. Bills – July - **ACTION ITEM**
- G. Report from the Chair
- H. Old Business
 - a. Cass County Fair – Select Winner of Drawing
- I. New Business
 - a. CCHS Antique Auction Fundraiser – Cass County Fairgrounds
- J. Committee Reports
 - a. Newton House
- K. Privileges of the Floor
- L. Public Comment

Next Meeting – September 10, 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: July 9, 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 __X__, Mary Howie _____, 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 Della Bundle to approve the agenda. Dianna McGrew seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made by Dianna McGrew to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2026 meeting of the Historical Commission. Della Bundle seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Financial Report: Chairperson Williamson suggested that it might be necessary to seek clarification from the county's new Finance Director on their assertion that the Historical Commission continues to have cost overruns before the board members actually vote to approve the financial report. Board members agreed to table approval of the financial report at this time.

Bills: A motion was made by Vice Chair Darren Bettinger to approve the bills paid in July. Della Bundle seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote, it was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Report from the Chair: Chairperson Williamson indicated that the topics she intended to discuss would be covered under Old Business.

Old Business:

Presentation to the Board of Commissioners and the Presentation to MSU: Chairperson Williamson reported that she had made a presentation to the county's Board of Commissioners to inform them of the Historical Society's effort to acquire the Historic Newton house and to encourage their continued support of the Historical Commission should this happen.

Chairperson Williamson also reported on the meeting she and Melissa Bettinger had with members of MSU's Board of Trustees. At that meeting they learned that any decision about the Historic Newton House will ultimately be made by the university's president. The decision is presently in limbo until a new president is hired.

Broad Band at the Historic Newton House: Chairperson Williamson reported that there had been no progress on our effort to seek permission to contract with MEC to provide broad band service at the Historic Newton House. Broad band service would add approximately \$35 to our monthly bill. There would be an additional charge were we to decide to run a line underground.

Proposed Archiving System: Vice Chair Bettinger explained that the Historical Society would be moving ahead with its intention to purchase a system called Past Perfect to inventory and archive artifacts at the Log Cabin, the Red Brick School, and the Historic Newton House.

Cass County Fair Booth Display: Board members had a discussion about what should be displayed at the Cass County Fair booth this year. Board members decided to display a number of antique artifacts that would prompt curiosity and interest among people attending the fair. These items would be on display along with literature from our partner institutions.

Re-appointments Confirmed: Chairperson Williamson announced that the members interested in continuing to serve on the Historical Commission had been re-appointed.

New Business:

There were no specific items to discuss under New Business.

Committee Reports:

The Historic Newton House: Vice Chair Bettinger announced that planning for this year's Fall Festival had begun. The festival is scheduled for October 10, 2026, 11am - 4pm.

Privileges of the Floor:

Vice Chairperson Bettinger announced that there is a new exhibit at the Log Cabin that features information about women who served as WAVES in the second World War.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Secretary, Jane L. Bergman