



Cass County Historical Commission

Officers: , Chair, Vice Chairperson - Allen Butchbaker – Jane Bergman, Secretary/Treasurer - Members-at-Large:
Dianna McGrew - Ann File - Jean Schultz - Nate Robinson - Darren Bettinger

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Newton Home

20689 Marcellus Hwy.

Decatur, MI 49045

October 20, 2022 – 5:30 p.m

- I. Call to Order – *Vice-Chair, Allen Butchbaker***
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of the Agenda**
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. August 11, 2022 meeting**
- V. Financial Report**
- VI. Bills**
- VII. Old Business**
- VIII. New Business**
 - 1. Election of Chair**
 - 2. Historical Commission Statement**
 - 3. Relationship with Historical Society/Newton Girls**
- IX. Committee Reports**
 - 1. Current/New Committees**
 - 2. Outreach**
 - a. Website**
 - 3. Newton House**
- IX. Public Comment**
- X. Adjournment**

CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 14, 2022

Time: 5:10 p.m.

Board Members present: Amy Davidhizar X , Allen Butchbaker X, Jane Bergman X, Darren Bettinger X, Dianna McGrew X , Nate Robinson X , and Jean Schultz X.

Also present: Zane Lankford.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Amy Davidhizar at 5:10 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Allen Butchbaker to approve the agenda for the August 11, 2022 meeting, seconded by Darren Bettinger and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Allen Butchbaker to approve the minutes of July 14, 2022, seconded by Nate Robinson and the motion carried.

Financial Report: Prior to approving the financial report, Chair Amy Davidhizar pointed out that the current cash balance was \$1762.08 and that an additional \$135, the proceeds from book sales at the Underground Railroad Days event would be deposited. She noted that this amount was not sufficient to cover the invoice submitted by the plumber. Amy informed board members she would discuss the implications of this on an agenda item under Old Business. A motion was made by Nate Robinson to approve the financial report. Seconded by Dianna McGrew and motion carried.

Bills: A motion was made by Jean Schultz to approve payment of the December bills. Seconded by Allen Butchbaker and motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Budget for 2023: After discussion, board members agreed that the Historical Commission should request \$9,000 be included in the budget for 2023, the amount that had customarily been allocated for the Historical Commission. It was also agreed that, in January, the Historical Commission should request an amendment to the budget to cover the cost of painting the exterior of the Historic Newton House.
2. Newton House Lease: Chair Amy Davidhizar reported that she had not been able to contact Rhonda Riley to discuss the lease for the Newton House. She was able to speak to a person at Michigan State University who verified that the lease automatically renews annually and that is in effect through January 2023.

Amy explained that any of archeological studies planned for the site will be done under a Memorandum of Understanding, MOU, with Michigan State University. She indicated that we will revisit any other amendments to the lease next year.

New Business:

1. Meeting with the Historical Society, August 8, 2022: Chair Amy Davidhizar summarized progress made in planning for the Fall Festival at the meeting that took place on August 8th. Various members of the Society had agreed to line up vendors, activities, services and food for the festival. She announced the follow up meeting scheduled for Monday August 23 at 6:00pm and announced that Lawless Jam had agreed to play at the festival.
2. Historical Commission Statement: Chair Amy Davidhizar reported that Ron McAdam had expressed interest in creating more separation between the Historical Commission and the Historical Society so the groups could focus on different things. Amy suggested that the Historical Commission might want to consider directing its focus on 1) developing a countywide Historical Forum that would allow the different organizations involved in preserving and promoting history to share information and practices, and 2) augmenting the library at the Newton House. Board members agreed to talk further about specific goals at the meeting next month.

Additional Discussion:

1. The election of officers will be added to the September agenda.
2. Changing the meeting time: Jean Schultz made a motion to change the time of monthly meeting from 5:00 p.m.to 5:30 p.m. Nate Robinson seconded the motion and the motion carried.
3. Zane Lankford reported that Diamond Lake Orchard would be donating apples and wine for the Fall Festival.

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Secretary,

Jane L. Bergman