



Cass County Historical Commission

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

MEETING AGENDA

CASS COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

(Arts Room)

60525 Decatur Road

Cassopolis, Michigan 49031

December 8, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order – *Chair, Bernie Williamson*
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the Agenda
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - a. November 10, 2022 - Regular meeting
- V. Financial Report
- VI. Bills
- VII. Old Business
 - a. Update on issues/questions raised at 11.10.22 meeting
- VIII. New Business
 - a. General Discussion – Projects, Goals, Priorities
- 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: November 10, 2022

Time: 5:30 pm

Board Members present: Allen Butchbaker X, Jane Bergman X, Darren Bettinger X, Amy Davidhizar X, Annie File X, Dianna McGrew __, Nate Robinson X, Jean Schultz (zoom), and Bernie Williamson X.

Also present: Ann Killian, Zane Lankford, Jon Weupper.

The meeting was held at the Local History Branch of the Cass District Library.

Meeting was called to order by Interim Chair Allen Butchbaker at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made by Bernie Williamson to approve the agenda, seconded by Darren Bettinger and motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Nate Robinson to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on October 20, 2022, seconded by Jane Bergman and motion carried.

Financial Report: The financial report was not available at the time of the meeting.

Bills: A motion was made by Nate Robinson to approve payment of the October bills. Seconded by Darren Bettinger and motion carried.

Interim Chair Allen Butchbaker thanked Jon Weupper for making it possible for the Historical Commission to meet at the Local History Branch of the Cass District Library and invited Mr. Weupper to outline the services available at the branch. Mr. Weupper informed board members that he continues to sell the Commission's books. He expressed the need for a receipt book with carbon copies to record and track sales.

New Business:

1. Election of Chair: Interim Chair Allen Butchbaker nominated Bernie Williamson to serve as Chair. Nate Robinson seconded the nomination and it was approved by a unanimous voice vote.
2. Election of Vice Chair: Annie File made a motion to nominate Darren Bettinger to serve as Vice Chair. Jane Bergman seconded and a voice vote indicated unanimous approval.
3. Election of Secretary: Bernie Williamson made a motion to nominate Jane Bergman to serve as Secretary. Nate Robinson seconded and a voice vote indicated unanimous approval.
4. Approval of 2023 Meeting Schedule: Board members were in agreement that the Kincheloe Room should continue to be the primary location for the monthly meetings. Further discussion is needed to agree upon the best time for the meetings and members agreed to table that discussion.
5. Relationship with the Historical Society: Ron McAdam, former Chair of the Historical Commission and current Chair of the Historical Society, had been invited to the meeting to

discuss the relationship between the Historical Commission and the Historical Society. Ron had prepared a document summarizing the history and the respective roles of each organization. The two organizations wish to clarify what the relationship will be going forward. Bernie Williamson suggested the possibility of organizing an informal joint brainstorming/work session to explore various alternatives. Darren Bettinger noted that it is important to agree upon procedures for acquisitions and keeping track of donations. Allen Butchbaker suggested contacting other area organizations to see how they account for donations and acquisitions.

Committee Reports:

The Historic Newton House: Jane Bergman expressed concern that provisions be made for checking on the Newton House over the winter. Nate Robinson offered to be responsible for periodically checking on the house and grounds and he will enlist help from other members as needed.

Public Comment:

Ann Killian inquired about Matt Bussler's current status on the Historical Commission. She believes it is important to determine how he was notified of any change, and by whom. She also stressed the importance of thanking him for serving on the Commission and finding a way to maintain a relationship with the Pokagon Band. Bernie Williamson suggested the Board could consider forming a council that would involve other area organizations interested in preserving aspects of local history.

Ann Killian inquired if the information that accompanied the daguerrotypes that have been entrusted to the Historical Commission and the Cass District Library could be made available. Jon Weupper agreed to consult with Barbara Gordon and provide the text if she agrees.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Secretary,

Jane L. Bergman