

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Historical Museum Board of Trustees

May 27, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Schram called the meeting to order on Wednesday, May 27, 2026.

ROLL CALL

- **Members Present:** Mr. Ashley, Mrs. Doran, Mr. Mays, Mrs. Middlestetter, Mrs. Schram
- **Members Absent:** Mrs. Brennan, Mr. Brennan

A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting were distributed to the board members prior to the meeting. The Chair asked for any changes. With no changes noted, a motion was made to approve the minutes.

- A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mrs. Middlestetter and seconded by Mr. Ashley.
- **Vote:** Passed 5-0 (Mr. Ashley: Yea, Mrs. Doran: Yes, Mr. Mays: Yes, Mrs. Middlestetter: Yes, Mrs. Schram: Yes).

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OLD BUSINESS

Update on the History Day Event Planning

- **Summary of Report:**
 - An event planning committee meeting was held on May 20, 2026. Allison, the primary planner, was unable to attend the current board meeting due to a scheduling conflict but had forwarded her notes.
 - The next committee meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2026.
 - A new event management software, "See My Legacy," has been acquired to handle vendor registration, ticketing, and volunteer management. Melissa and Allison will be responsible for its implementation.
 - A list of hundreds of craft and food vendors from the Sugar Maple Festival has been provided to Allison.
- **Summary of Discussion:**
 - The board discussed entertainment options for the event. The main stage availability is limited this year.
 - Suggestions for music included contacting Heather at Bellhop for bluegrass performers, reaching out to the high school band director for period-appropriate music, and utilizing smaller, acoustic groups to avoid the noise complaints received last year. The consensus favored low-key, period-appropriate music over loud bands.
 - The event layout was discussed. The proposed area includes Bellbrook Street, Walnut Street, and North Main Street, similar to the Sugar Maple Festival footprint, excluding Franklin Street. The Brookside parking lot may also be available.
 - There was a discussion on whether to include a traditional car show. The committee had leaned towards featuring farm implements and tractors more relevant to the area's history. The board acknowledged this decision rests with the event committee. Tractors would be placed in parking spaces, not on park paths, due to weight concerns.
 - The idea of including horses and historical reenactments, such as a Paul Revere figure, was raised.

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- Clarification was sought and confirmed that the event celebrates America's 250th anniversary, funded by a grant for that purpose, and is not solely focused on Bellbrook's local history.
- A typographical error ("Bell Rooks" instead of "Bellbrook's") was noted in the promotional material for the event, "History Comes Alive: Bellbrook's Celebration of America's 250th Anniversary."
- The board confirmed that further planning and decisions would be handled by the designated event committee.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought before the board.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- A member asked about the status of the air conditioning unit at the museum. Rob stated that if the issue was reported, it has likely been addressed.
- In response to a question from Mrs. Middlestetter, it was reported that the new storage space at the fire department building is full and well-utilized. Alison has organized the items effectively and knows their locations.
- It was noted that Allison will not be able to dedicate as much time to the event as last year due to her library schedule. However, it is believed the process will be more streamlined this year, and she has indicated she can manage the workload. Allison does not plan a full museum exhibit change for the event due to the proximity to the Halloween exhibit setup but may create a small, dedicated display area.

ADJOURNMENT

A board member adjourned the meeting. The next meeting was not specified.

Deborah Schram, Chair Person

Rob Schommer, Clerk of Council