



# *Town of Wilmington*

*Wilmington, Massachusetts, 01887*

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## WILMINGTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**February 12, 2024**  
**at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Wilmington Town Hall – Room 4**

Bonny called the meeting to order 7:00 pm

Members in attendance: Bonny Smith, Odette Kent, Joe Jackson, Christine Johnston, Jim Buck, Bob Mallett  
Also in attendance: Matthew Beres (via Zoom), Anthony Accardi (Clerk).

### **I Minutes of the Meeting January 8, 2023**

Bob Mallett made a motion to approve the minutes, Jim Buck 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor and minutes approved.

### **II. Treasurer's Report**

Christine Johnston made a motion to approve with Joe Jackson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor and the motion was approved.

Bonny mentioned that she would be going in front of the Finance Committee on February 13<sup>th</sup> and will present the new budget.

### **III. Topics for Discussion**

#### **New Business:**

1. Bonny discussed the Collections Management Policy and how it needs to be revised periodically. Joe Jackson had some questions on archive/collection availability and suggested an inventory list. Joe Jackson made a motion and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim buck to approve the policy with changes and Town Counsel approval.
2. Bonny next brought up the senior tax work off program. Bonny discussed Bobby Chroscinski will be working for the commission. She is waiting on town approval and noted that he is available for 80 hours total.
3. Bonny next discussed the roof and window bid. She stated that the bid came in too high. She mentioned the possibility of splitting this into two separate projects or request additional funds. She also mentioned the Commission is seeking a state sponsored grant - Mass Historic Grant.
4. Building Reuse Committee – No new news.
5. Grants: Discussed under #3 Roof and Window.
6. Women's History Month Tea – nothing new to report.

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7. Living History Night – Frank West assisting in this event. The thought is to dress in period attire and serve beer. Looking into permit to serve alcohol
8. 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade field trip was postponed until Fall of 2024.
9. Matt reached out to the Principal of the high school as well as the head of the history department at the high school to set up a field trip or possibly bring in interns as part of the Volunteer Program.
10. 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America celebration: It was discussed to team up with the Wilmington Minutemen and/or Pat Giroux. Joe discussed scanning documents in the town hall vault.
11. Museum Logo: Matt presented a few designs and brought the suggestion of offering a prize for the best design.

#### **IV. Recurring Topics:**

##### **1. Curator Monthly Report:**

###### **Building Issues:**

- a. Matt reported no new building issues. He wants to have the back stairs painted.

###### **Museum Inventory Projects:**

- a. He mentioned that he was still working on the Wildwood Archive.
- b. *Matt offered to the group, what he has so far for a Mission Statement. Suggested this be tabled for now.* Joe Jackson inquired about the mission statement in the Collections Policy.

###### **Research Projects:**

- a. Research Project: the April 19<sup>th</sup> Cannon Ball. A 6lb shot. Matt does not know when the library donated it. Joe discussed who had it and when it was returned to the town.
- b. Matt mentioned that he was requesting a light for the display and a vacuum cleaner. Jim Buck made a motion to approve these and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Odette. All was in favor and the motion was approved with a cost limit of \$100.00.

###### **Upcoming Events:**

- a. Matt mentioned that he was finishing up the Mass Historical Preservation Grant.
- b. He mentioned that the high school field trip had previously been discussed under “new business” as was the logo design contest.
- c. He reiterated the Living History Night with the Minutemen and the attempt to re-create a “living tavern”.
- d. Women’s history night was previously discussed under “New Business” and that there was nothing new to report.

###### **Library Projects:**

- a. Matt mentioned the Land Acknowledgement Agreement and meeting with the library to discuss how to do it.
- b. He mentioned the Town Annual Reports and School Reports from the 1950’s.

###### **Carraige House / Public Building News:**

- a. Carriage house has no new concerns.

**Museum Visitors:**

- a. Visitor: Total: 31 and a cub scout tour of 18 people.

**Social Media:**

- a. Social Media: Instagram had 89 followers (up by 4), Facebook had 269 followers (up by 20) and Twitter had 314 followers (up by 9).

**Donations:**

- a. Donations and Sales: \$15.00 Cash Donation.
- b. Matt went over various donations presented to the society. Joe Jackson asked for a description of each item.
- c. Neil Woodside Items.
- d. Polly Smith and Roger Whitney Items.

A motion was made by Bob Mallett to take in, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Jackson – Approved.

**Demo Permits:**

- a. None.

**Technical Team:**

- a. No Updates.

**Artifact of the Month:**

- a. Matt presented a deed of an enslaved person from Wilmington – September 5, 1748.
- b. The role of Wilmington in slavery ownership given to Ebenezer Jacquith.

**2. Research Presentation – Joe Jackson**

- a. Joe discussed Town Meetings from the 1700's (1730) Deacon Jeams Thompson and John Harnden – The "Who's Who" of Town Founders.

**3. Correspondence: None.****4. Artifact of the Month:** Discussed under Curator Report.**5. Other:** None.**6. Public Comment:** None.**V. For Future Consideration:**

1. Gravestone Restoration Project – Nothing New to Report.
2. Historic Plaque Policy: Nothing
3. Historic Home Inventory Project: Nothing.
4. Carraige House Cleanout: Nothing.
5. 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wilmington: Nothing.
6. International Harvester Truck Acquisition Update: Bonny is concerned about the truck and the roof integrity. She spoke with Stu Neilson regarding the paperwork to acquire the truck.
7. Yearbook Distribution Project: Planned for the Fall.

8. More Events held at the museum in 2024: Bonny and Matt discussed ideas to make the building more appealing. Looking for ideas to be brought to the table.
9. Other: None.

Bonny asked for a motion to adjourn.

Bob Mallett made a motion to adjourn – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christine Johnston

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm