

## ACWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 4:30 PM, TOWN HALL

**Present:** Ken Burke, Ann Kosa, Kathi Bradt, Lillie LeBlanc, Alison Ferrell, Lori Pimental, Mark Mulhearn, Lindley Hanson, Rick Koester, Lorrie Ingoldsby, Helen Frink, Liz Bascom, Alva Grant, Marianne Nevelson, Claudia Istel

**Minutes of March 9th, 2026** Alison mentioned the use of AI during the meeting, and she noticed it has an impersonal tone and misinformation. We will use the old-fashioned method from here on. Helen also stated she edited the notes. Minutes accepted.

### **Guest - Ken Burke - Metal Detecting services**

Ken is from Claremont. He has been detecting since 1978, and has worked with Old Fort #4 in Charlestown and several local humane societies. He is donating several pieces he has found from near Crescent Lake. He is offering his services for free. He donates anything he finds to the property owner. He also offered to give a workshop on metal detecting using his spare detectors. Kathi stated we own the store, and she thought it would be interesting to see if any artifacts could be found. Alison said it would be a great idea. Kathi would like to get Bret involved; Ken Burke suggested the best time to search is when excavation is in progress. We will keep him posted and hope for a Summer investigation/tutorial.

### **Treasurer's Report**

March beginning balance - \$94,081.42. Credits for rent and donations and interest - \$2,052.32. Debits for store utilities - \$1,907.56.

Total matching donations to date - \$65,350 (does not include Pimental donation, nor in-kind donations, nor new NH Charitable 10K)

Available balance - \$28,876.18 of which approximately \$8,000 is needed for 2026 Operating budget

### **Village Store**

***Lease with Pimental family signed April 4<sup>th</sup>!*** John Luther notarized the paperwork.

No Smoking policy - Lori Pimental said things are going well. She reported Lorrie Ingoldsby and Rick Koester have been working on clearing the land next to the store, and this will create a space for a smoking area. Lori is working on procuring a vessel for cigarette disposal.

Lori Pimental is waiting on inspections from the bureaus of alcohol, tobacco, and food services. Kathi asked if a plan with drawings should be prepared, and Lori agreed. Ann and Lori are working together well on the transition from ACP to Lori's business. Next Monday a new stove will be installed. Thursday Night Dinners are going well.

Further discussion of using space behind the Store - Pollinator Garden, Corn Hole Game. Lori wants to reintroduce Pizza Night.

Lorrie Ingoldsby reports progress is being made with clearing the land for the new access road. She and Rick would appreciate some help clearing the field. A burn permit will be needed as

well. Lorrie will check with the fire chief. A tentative date of May 2 and or May 3rd was decided for a burn party.

### **Grants and Fundraising**

**NBRC** : Level of EPA review required; notification expected by April 17.

Match needed for NBRC grant is now \$96,106 due to increased size of addition.

NH Charitable Foundation \$10,000 has been awarded: it funds larger addition with remaining funds to be used for apartment improvements. Requests pending: Claremont Savings Bank \$5,000, Hunt Foundation \$15,000

Acworth Community Charitable Trust \$4,000 application response expected May 1.

Line of Credit- Helen has the application that Kathi will need to sign to let the grant know that we are applying for a LOC. The amount of credit applied for will be \$50,000. Alison will receive a copy.

### **Other Business**

**"Monadnock Aerial History Project,"** - SEE PAGE 2 FOR EMAIL REQUEST

Helen would like South Acworth as well as the town center to be filmed. Alison mentioned that we should inform the townspeople before any filming takes place. Kathi wants to focus on town centers. Helen volunteered to get in touch with Charlotte and write a letter to get the ball rolling.

Claudia asked if a report from the AHS should be included in the annual town report. Kathi mentioned the AHS is a private 501 organization. To be continued.

### **Programming**

- A summer happy hour and a fall old house tour were proposed.
- An event featuring old maps and house histories — potentially involving Janet Slocum and Mark Goodwin — was suggested.
- The Humanities to Go program was mentioned as a way to bring guest speakers to the community.

Sharon Spaulding wrote Women Make History. Helen says she is willing to give a book talk in August. There is no fee involved. Ball in Helen's court.

New Hampshire Historical Society Scavenger Hunt: Ann said the ACP is also planning an event on July 4<sup>th</sup> to celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary.

Kathi wondered how to reach out to Acworthians living in the Crescent Lake area.

**Publicity:** Community Newsletter - Helen is expecting a response on the EPA review required so she can report when the construction on the store can commence.

**Tickler List** from November minutes

- **Collections Policy:** What artifacts or documents, photos, diaries, letters should we accept? Where do we store things? Or exhibit them? Document provenance: where do things come from? What are we obligated to do with them?
- **Garden Plot Rental** Campground in back of the store??

- Strategic Plan

Meeting adjourned 5:39 PM

**EMAIL REQUEST re Aerial Photography:**

My name is Andri Kyrychok, and I am an FAA-certified commercial drone pilot based in Hillsborough.

I recently had the pleasure of flying over Acworth to document the stunning architecture and placement of your Congregational Church. After I posted the images and video, Charlotte Dobson reached out at the town office, who mentioned the town's need for aerial photography for next year's Town Report.

Connecting those two things sparked an idea that could solve the town's immediate need while providing a massive, free asset for the Historical Society's archives.

I am currently finalizing the groundwork for the "Monadnock Aerial History Project," an initiative to create high-resolution, low-altitude digital archives of our region's historic town centers. I just met with the leadership at Arts Alive! in Keene, and they are moving forward with fiscally sponsoring this project when it comes to the greater Monadnock/Southwest NH area. This status allows me to apply for state preservation grants (such as the Moose Plate program) to fully fund the documentation process.

Because of the town's pristine preservation I would love to designate Acworth as the **Pilot Community** for this grant application.

**What this means for the Society:** The state grant would cover my time, equipment, and editing. In return, the Historical Society would receive a permanent digital archive of 4K video and photography covering the church, the town center, and other historical assets you wish to target. You would also have the exact assets Charlotte needs for the Town Report cover (I will come back later in the year for foliage, all at absolutely zero cost to your operating budget or the town.

The Arts Alive! Board is voting to finalize my sponsorship on March 25th. To lock Acworth in as the pilot town on my application, I simply need a brief reply to this email stating that the Historical Society is interested in collaborating on this grant-funded project. The decision does not have to be made before the 25th.

Would you be open to serving as the pilot community for this?

Warm Regards,

Andri Kyrychok