

ACWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

May 12, 2025 Acworth Town Hall

Attending: Kathi Bradt, Marianne Nevelson, Loretta Meserve, Ann Kosa, Rick Koester, Lorrie Ingoldsby, Liz Bascom, Francis Mulhern, Claudia Istel, and Helen Frink

Minutes of our April 1st meeting were approved.

In the absence of the Treasurer there was no report, but it was noted that our bank balance is about \$31,000.

Governance:

Grant applications require that we have a Board Conflict of Interest Policy. An AI model found online seemed too complicated. Ann Kosa and Helen Frink will share policies they are familiar with and we can discuss at our June meeting.

Bylaws should be revised to say how officers are elected. A 2-year term is specified now; would a 3-year term be better? Can officers also serve a second term? This should also be discussed at our next meeting.

Mission: We revised our Mission to address owning the Village Store. We tentatively approved this draft:

The Acworth Historical Society is a nonprofit dedicated to promoting local history through preservation and education. The Society owns and maintains the Village Store, working closely with the Acworth Community Project to ensure that the Store can continue to serve our town.

Strategic Plan: also needed for grant applications. Kathi will share a draft created in 2013. Should the plan include a calendar describing financial goals, maintenance needs for the store, and a schedule for communications, such as a fall fundraising appeal and a spring Annual Report?

Leases: Kathi will share leases for the Community Project and tenant Victor Brandt in 2013. Rick Koester also shared a model lease that could be used for the store and for the apartment. Should we have new leases? We need to specify who pays which costs (utilities) and what repairs each is responsible for, e.g. cleaning the range hood (needs to be done every 6 months).

Grants: We received the 1772 Foundation grant, \$10,000, and \$4,000 from the Acworth Trust to replace the roof at the Village Store. Donations totaling \$2,000 have been pledged. We voted to use \$4,900 from our treasury balance to make up the \$20,900 needed for the roof (Bret Lord's quote). Helen is working on the LCHIP application due June 18th. It will focus on historic preservation, like painting and chimney and window repair. Utilities will be moved out of the cellar and into the store. It may be time now to replace oil heat with propane that will also fuel the generator. Ann Kosa will work with a contact at the Mascoma Bank Foundation on a grant application for these costs.

Events

The July 12 Car Show at the Village Store proposed by the Acworth Trust may not take place. The Trust meets May 18th to discuss it.

We tentatively agreed to host one of the two Church suppers planned this summer. We would provide food for a pot luck Friday, July 18th. It would give us a chance to publicize our plans and Lindley Hanson's August 17th presentation on the Geology of South Acworth.

Ann Kosa asked about holding a private event on the store's grounds and using the Turnaround Barn. We discussed a nominal fee, \$50, for the use of space. She (her band) would be responsible for cleanup. She will check about a portapotty and insurance if alcohol is served. Leasing the town hall for private events requires such added insurance. Ann will ask Charlotte Comeau.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 9th.