

## ACWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

January 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 4:00 PM, TOWN HALL

**Attending:** Kathi Bradt, Helen Frink, Alison Ferrell, Ann Kosa, Mary Lord, Marianne Nevelson, Lorrie Ingoldsby, Rick Koester, Lindley Hanson, Loretta Meserve, Rich Pimental, Lori Pimental, Susan Metsack, Alva Grant, Geoffrey Jones, Sandra Binion, Cara and Evan Carlos with children, John Luther, Robin Luther, Sabine Duran, Lillie LeBlanc

**Minutes of December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025** accepted

### **Treasurer's Report:**

December beginning balance - \$47,361.69  
Expenses (Oil) - \$1,128.40  
Roof project completion - \$10,450.00  
Rent & Donations & Interest - \$10,925.71  
Ending Balance - \$46,709.00

Of that balance - \$16,140.00 is earmarked towards matching the new grant, so our active balance is \$30,569.

Including January donations, \$19,125.00 is earmarked towards matching the new grant

### **Grants and Fundraising**

Mascoma Bank Foundation: Helen requested \$12,500 Dec. 30, 2025

Savings Bank of Walpole request of \$2,500 in progress

Putnam Foundation request of \$20,000 in progress

**NBRC Progress:** Notice of Federal Interest document to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds discussion postponed. Entity Administrator form not needed.

### **Village Store updates:**

Rick Koester re: use of ½ acre just east of store barn. He put a bid on the home adjacent to the store, and will donate the land to the Historical Society.

**Event Recap** January 11<sup>th</sup>, 3 PM: Pat McCabe (Lempster): Dallin family in Acworth: an interesting talk about family members who were sculptors and stained glass artists.

**Projects:** Overlay Lots and Ranges from the 1700s onto road map. Janet Slocum is working on this project.

**Scavenger Hunt on Revolutionary War:** responded to NH Historical Society

[*Lemuel Blood grave, Dean Gowen's field; Veterans Memorial Park Project*] Dean Gowen is very interested.

**Beehives update** BOS has reached out to the property owner but has not heard back from them. Time is running out to put it on the town meeting agenda for this year.

## Village Store Proposal

Lori Pimental introduced herself and her husband, Rich. She filled everyone in on her and Rich's background: Rich has extensive experience in all aspects of running a grocery store, Lori has banking as well as retail experience. They have created two successful markets in Massachusetts, one in Boston, and one on Cape Cod, which they have owned since 2002. They've been featured in magazines; She supplied pictures, and other printed material.

She would like to work with the ACP and the AHS, and keep the model basically the same. They wish to offer a donation of \$14,000 to the AHS; Ann mentioned the \$14,000 comes from the donations the ACP received.

They would like to negotiate a long-term lease and are very interested in developing the garden area behind the store.

Kathi asked about the timeline. When would the lease go into effect? Lori said their attorney would draw up the lease, approximately April 1st, She introduced her daughter and son-in-law, Cara and Evan Carlos. Evan is a woodworker and could help out with renovations.

Lori stated that she and Cara would run the business. She wants to keep the name of the store intact. Supporting local businesses would also be a top priority. She also assured everyone that the store would be open in inclement weather.

Helen explained the store building is up for a large renovation. Bret Lord will be the general contractor on this multi-layered project. She also mentioned the two-year \$20,800 stipend for an individual to assess other markets, as an economic stimulus project.

Mary also mentioned the Acworth Village Store has been included in articles about village stores in rural New Hampshire, and she had researched other stores in the area.. She felt this research should be repeated.

Geoffrey asked how everything meshes together with the grants and renovations? Helen said the \$14,000 would be a charitable tax-deductible donation. He also wanted to make sure that the great coffee at the store is mentioned.

Alison says we have enjoyed a great relationship with the ACP, but would like things to be "tightened up", like responsibilities about maintenance, paperwork, etc. Lori acknowledged that responsibilities need to be clearly defined.

Lori said the store would not survive without Mary and Ann. She also gave thanks to Bret.

Mary asked what they envision going forward, like with hours, breakfasts? Lori outlined her intentions, increasing food options (meals, groceries, produce), highlighting local foods, gluten-free and vegetarian items. She said they can tap into current food trends to encourage customers.

Lindley asked about space for dining as opposed to grocery items on shelves? Lori acknowledged there should be more definition as to the layout of the store. Rich agreed space is limited. He said they can utilize the back yard and the porch during warm weather. Helen mentioned space will be increased with the proposed new addition.

Marianne stated running the store isn't profitable and appreciates the Pimentals offering to "take on the burden". Ann feels the store can turn a profit eventually.

Kathi mentioned that the United Church of Acworth is looking to find ways to use the church property across from the store. There could be possibilities of revitalizing the town when the store is renovated.

Lori wants to still have Pizza Night, Saturday night suppers, as well as other events like the music festivals.

Cara wanted everyone to know things are not going to radically change, changes will come slowly. They will continue to cater to what everyone wants right now. They also want to renovate the building.

Lindley wants to know what is up first? Rich said "planning". Lori wants to work on the area where the beer is displayed. They want to add a produce case. They want to paint, renovate the floors. Cara wants to increase consistency in products offered. They also want to expand the prepared meals offerings.

Ann said it would be helpful to communicate what the Pimentals' intentions are to the public through the newsletter, the AHS website, etc. Mary agreed. Ann stated people are concerned.

Geoffrey wanted to know about the current employees? Rich would meet with all of them about new policies and job descriptions. Rich reinforced the fact that they want to be involved in the community. Geoffrey asked if what if you can't make a profit? Rich assured him that they will at least break even.

Lindley wants to know if the other store the Pimentals own on Cape Cod serves meals? Lori said yes, especially soups.

Mary stated it is a struggle to get good help. Rich said they are aware of that, and will work at making it an attractive place to work.

Marianne stated the executive board should meet with the Pimentals to iron out details. Kathi concurred. A vote was taken (show of hands) and everyone agreed that moving forward to discuss the Pimentals' proposal was a positive idea. January 20th at 4 pm is the date that the board will meet with the Pimentals. We'll be looking at what the construction, time lines, etc. will look like. Also we'll look at a rudimentary lease.

#### **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
- Revise leases to reflect improvements (ex. Generator maintenance)

Meeting adjourned: 5:14 pm

Next Monthly Meeting: Monday, February 9, 2026 4:30 pm