

**THE BLACK TAVERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES**

May 30, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: 9:29 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Grzyb.

PRESENT: D. Bazinet, E. Bazinet, L. Bazinet, T. Boyd, R. Ducharme, R. Grzyb, M. Moseley, W. Moseley, S. Peterson, A. Poitier, D. Proulx, N. Roy, S. Roy, P. Williams

CLERK'S REPORT: Sent via email; report accepted. All approved, clerk has copy.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sent via email; report accepted. All approved, clerk has copy. The larger CD that we have is up for renewal on June 5th. At this point we will just roll it over. Our CD's total \$802,683.

CARETAKERS REPORT: The caretaker is busy with getting ready to move out the end of June. This month in addition to his regular duties, he planted flowers, and put up bunting. He had a nice visit from a family (Stewart) related to Hezekiah and gave them a tour of the Tavern. Last Saturday a number of the board members helped installing the post out front, making it ready for the sign.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

We currently received 129 memberships for 2026, bringing in \$6920 in dues. Scott emailed board members a list of those who have not responded (that usually do) in the hopes that other members may know those who have died so we can take them off our list.

OLD BUSINESS:

On-going projects Updates:

- Sign Post – Installed, and ready for the sign.
- Antique Bench Restoration – Currently in progress.
- Painting Ceilings in Hearth and Tap Rooms – Misa Fossas is lined up for July.
- WIFI System – A motion was made and seconded that we go with the \$40 basic Wi-Fi plan from Spectrum for three years. We will move on to the exterior lighting and security once that has been accomplished.
- Office re-organization (waiting for warmer weather)

Subcommittee Meetings

Finance (matters that need to be discussed at their next meeting)

- There was a question on whether the two organizations we were looking at to invest our money had community involvement. Marc relayed that the Pomfret group did not have a community component, and the Worcester group did. Tom will try to give us the pros and cons of each group at an upcoming meeting.
- The finance committee will discuss the pros and cons of getting Venmo or PayPal for the Tavern at their next meeting.

Executive Committee - Caretaker Replacement

After a period of solicitation for interest in the role of Black Tavern caretaker, the committee heard back from three parties. Each was sent an extensive application packet and after reviewing their completed forms and personal statements of interest from each candidate, the committee interviewed each of the three parties in person. The general sense of the committee is that each of the three candidates were well qualified and each would bring some unique qualities to the role; ultimately, however, the committee is pleased to recommend

Andrew Casavant. Andrew is a direct descendent of Hezekiah Healy with a keen interest in this family history and therefore Tavern history. He would bring a wide ranging and well-rounded set of abilities including, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, painting, tiling, kitchen and bathroom remodeling, experience working on 18th and 19th century buildings, landscaping and general property maintenance. He has run his own handyman service for several years and is currently employed by Lasalle Music in Southbridge. With the board's approval, we will confirm his suitability via background check. Once checks have been made, and with Andrew's acceptance we will then notify the other candidates of our decision. The committee requests confidentiality from the board concerning all the preceding information so that each candidate is informed of our decision at the appropriate time by the search committee in a direct and professional manner and not by rumor or word of mouth.

A motion was made to offer the position of Black Tavern caretaker to Andrew Casavant, conditional on the successful outcome of his background check. The motion was seconded and after some questions and discussions the motion was unanimous.

Long Range Projects Planning Committee - Items are on their agenda, but nothing is urgent. The next time they meet they will talk about working out front.

Membership Appreciation Picnic Subcommittee – 8/1/2026. We have contacted Mack's and given them a deposit. More details as we get closer. We will send an email out to the membership after the Fourth of July weekend with details.

Scholarship Committee – The committee received 4 applications and were able to select a great candidate from that pool. Samantha Norberg is the Taverns' 2026 scholarship winner and will receive \$3,000. Samantha is going to the University of Vermont where she will study history with the hopes of becoming a history professor.

Third Grade Field Trip – Field Trip Day is Tuesday, June 2nd, and Dave will get back to us where each of us will be. Marge Squire has volunteered to pick up the lunch, but not the donuts and coffee. Sandy Peterson offered to pick up the donuts and coffee in the morning. Bob has one of his reenactor friends who will be in the Civil War room with him, and hopefully he will be able to help in the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Nancy and Scott Roy donated five folding chairs that have been placed in the barn. The chairs will be used for programs being held there. There was a discussion on whether we should buy a folding chair cart for the barn, with a cover to enable us to move the chairs around the barn easier. There was a motion made to buy a rolling chair cart to carry 60 chairs and a cover to keep the chairs clean. The motion made and seconded and all were in favor. Bob Grzyb, having one of the credit cards, will order the cart to be delivered to the Tavern.
- Grange Strawberry Festival and Tavern Tours – June 18th at 4:00 pm. Bob Ducharme will be selling items in the barn, so he will not be able to lead any tours of the Tavern. If no one is willing to give tours, then we will not have any this year.

NEXT PROGRAM: Our next program, Memory, Music and Fun – Guess Name that Tune, will be in the barn on Thursday, September 21st at 7:00. It is being hosted by Nancy and Scott Roy.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, June 27, 2026 at 9:30 am. Annual meeting at 10:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Williams, Clerk