

**Grafton Historical Society
Board of Directors Meeting**

January 13, 2026

3:00 p.m.

Grafton Library

Upper Level Meeting Room

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Krueger at 3:05 p.m.

Attendance

Steve Greger, John Krueger, Tom Krueger, Debbie Krueger, Nick Schanen, Darrel Blank, Emily Engstrom, Dave Antoine and Phyllis Wiggins.

II. President's Comments

-Grafton Annual Christmas Parade: Tom reported that the GHS parade entry was well received. The cost for it was \$630.

-Museum Fundraising Update: Tom told the group that the Zaun Foundation has contributed \$6,000 toward the creation of a GHS museum. Tom followed up with a call and the GHS will send a formal thank you letter. The foundation representative said that there could be a possibility of recurring support.

-Library Display Case: The GHS has the library display case for February. It was suggested that a "Grafton Blues" theme be used. The next Co-op meeting is set for February.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes, October 28, 2025

Nick moved and Steve seconded that the minutes be approved.
Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

John reported that he would e-mail the Treasurer's Report to board members. He also told members that a renewal notice has come for the Past Perfect online software. Several board members questioned the usefulness of the subscription for our society. Darrel said he would pay for the subscription again. Board members agreed to renew the subscription for another year during which time efforts will be made to make best use of the on-line features available.

Addition: The e-mail report stated that the checking account total is \$21,672.00.

V. Committee Reports

1. Membership: No report.

2. IT/Website: The committee met to make a list of additions and other changes for the website. These include an "About Us" section, group picture and brief bio of board members. The committee will meet again with Jenny Bublitz in March.

3. PR/Communications: Dave reported that there is a lot of publicity for the Grafton Blues program. This includes flyers, digital signs, newspaper articles, and Facebook and Instagram posts. He added that so far 88 people are following the GHS.

4. Archiving and Research Requests: No report.

5. Program Meetings: A program on the "Blues in Grafton" is scheduled for Thursday, January 22nd. It is being presented by Peter Roller. The GHS will provide pub mix, popcorn and cookies again.

6. Other Events and Fundraising: No report.

7. Oral Interviews: Nick said he recently completed an oral interview with Jim Stern. His brothers and sisters were also included. Board members inquired about what is done with the oral interviews when they are completed. They suggested putting them on the website. It was also suggested that we check with other historical societies to find out how they promote their oral interviews. Nick was asked if we are getting consent for using the interviews from those being interviewed. He explained that it is an oral, recorded consent for each of the interviews.

Newsletter: Debbie told the group that the next issue of the newsletter will come out in February.

8. Scenes from the Past: Tom told the group that he is in need of additional historic pictures of Grafton for the News Graphic.

At this point in the meeting, board members viewed the storage space available to them at the Grafton Town Hall.

They agreed that it was a viable option.

VI. Old Business

1. Update re: Implementation of Past Perfect software: No report.

2. Update re: fundraising avenues/options: No report.

3. Update re: future museum and rental agreement status:

Board members discussed the issue at length. Questions were raised concerning costs, production of museum displays and ability to have someone at the museum on a regular basis. A question was also raised regarding board member financial liability for museum lease costs. It was agreed that we need to see a budget before any decisions can be made. Tom said he will speak with Attorney John Gallo regarding insurance and liability issues. He will also put together a proposed “start-up” budget for the museum.

- 4. Update: Grafton Chair Factory painting display:** Tom said that he has received an appraisal value of \$5,000 for the painting. He is now checking with his insurance company about insurance coverage. A.M. Coffee is requiring, to display to painting, that the GHS provide insurance, an appraisal, description of the painting and a 6-12 month display agreement.

VII. New Business

- 1. Paramount Walking Tour booklet – a historical resource worth talking about; booklet update:** No update.
 - 2. Digital Archiving of historical Grafton pictures re: added resource and future photo gallery:** No discussion
 - 3. Update re: archives storage** – Tom will contact the Grafton Public Works Department to ask if they would be able to help with archive relocation. He added that he is also still in discussions regarding storage space at the Timothy Wooden Building.
- 2. Spirit Rock plaque design** – John and Dave reported that they have the name of a person who does this type of engraving. Tom checked with the village and they told him the village “has no particular standard” for historic site signage. He advised the GHS to go to the Parks and Recreation department for further information. Rick Gonzalez has offered to help with the wording on the plaque. Tom will approach the village administrator to ask if the village would assume the costs for the plaque.
- 3. Grafton Historical Landmarks – artwork by Don Henning.** The Grafton Chamber of Commerce is looking for additional copies of the land marks artwork. Dave offered to donate his copy. Tom reported that the artist had also done a sketch of the interior of the Chair Factory. Debbie said she will try to track down

information on Henning's son Paul to find out about any additional artwork.

VII. Miscellaneous:

1. Volunteer Recruitment moving forward – no discussion.

2. GHS Marketing Opportunity – Chamber “Muffins and Members”- It was suggested that we sponsor one of the Muffins and Members get-togethers. Dave will contact Elizabeth Mueller at the chamber office.

IX. Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17 at 3:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m. Grafton Town Hall is the tentative location.