

**Grafton Historical Society
Board of Directors Meeting**

July 28, 2026

3:00 p.m.

Grafton Library

Upper Meeting Room

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Krueger at 3:00 p.m.

Attendance

Nick Schanen, Steve Greger, John Krueger, Tom Krueger, Jim Wegner, Phyllis Wiggins, Jim Miller, Debbie Krueger, Emily Engstrom and Dave Antoine

II. President's Comments

Communications – Tom reported that Jerry Lorenz thanked us for the last newsletter. Debbie said that he sent us some chapters from his book on the history of the Lorenz family for a possible article in a future newsletter.

Lifetime Membership Award – Tom told the group that in June Norm Petersen was presented with the Lifetime Membership Award from the GHS.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes, June 25, 2026

Nick moved and Dave seconded that the minutes be approved.
Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

John reported that we have \$4,478.00 in our checking account and \$15,000 in our money market account. Jim W. moved that the treasurer's report be approved. Seconded by Nick. Motion approved.

V. Committee Reports

1. Membership: No report.

2. IT/Website: Tom reported that he sends something to Jenny Publitz at least every month to update the website. The September program is currently on the website.

3. PR/Communications: Dave reported that he has added more sites for Facebook communications. He has added the Grafton Fire Department, Ozaukee Tourism and he will look into Next Door and the Grafton Rec Department. Our Facebook following continues to grow, he added.

4. Archiving and Research Requests: Nick is looking for replacements for our file cabinets. He also reported that we have received donations from Allen Buchholz, and two boxes of pictures from the Nissen Family. In addition we have received two ledgers from the Ulao School from Donna Kaul Gruetzmacher. Nick has been communicating with John Long's granddaughter. She has several artifacts from John Long to donate. Nick will meet with Emily in the archives room to show her the collection so she can begin entering items into the archiving program.

5. Program Meetings: A program featuring a talk on the "Edmund Fitzgerald" is set for September 10th. There is also a program on the "Amish in Wisconsin" set for October 15th. Debbie told members that she contacted the speaker on the German Bund in America and specifically, Grafton, but has not heard back from him, so this program is on hold.

Tom told the group that Richard Gonzalez is presenting a historical program at the library on August 6.

6. Other Events and Fundraising: Emily told board members that our participation in the Raise Right program is set up. When people sign up to use the program to support the GHS, we receive a percentage back based on what they spend. She noted that when we inform people of this program, we need to provide them with the GHS code.

7. Oral Interviews: Tom commented that we need to develop a plan to use the oral interviews. John added that there must be a service that transcribes interviews. Emily will do some research on the topic. Debbie said that she will give Tom the copies of the interviews she received from Jean Steinke.

Newsletter: Debbie reported that the next newsletter will come out in September. She would like to feature a story on the history of St. Paul Church as it is their 175th anniversary this year. Jim W. will make some contacts to obtain information on the history of the church.

Scenes from the Past: Tom said that he will be submitting an image of the old Jackson School in Grafton for the 7/30/27 News Graphic issue.

VI. Old and New Business

1. Research Requests – Tom thanked Nick for following up on all research requests. Debbie suggested that we keep a list of all of those requests. John added that it is important for our annual report, and it is important to show that we are an active society for our members and wider publicity efforts. Tom will talk to Jenny about listing the requests and answers on our website. Nick reiterated that we should be charging \$20 per research request, with members getting this service free of charge.

2. Future Programs Schedule – Tom reported that he has talked with David Watkins about a program of Blues music. Tom asked him to

put it on the calendar for February. Because this program will be expensive with Watkins' fee and lodging costs, it was suggested that we charge for it. No decision was made on whether or not to include a "Fried Chicken and Waffles" event with the program.

Steve had provided information on the history of the lime kiln operation on the history of Grafton. Tom will contact James Cornelius and ask if he would be interested in researching this topic and providing a presentation.

3. Update re: Seth Antiques donation of Don Henning artwork for fundraising – Nick told board members that he has contacted the owner of Seth Antiques. The owner said the artwork is still in the warehouse and that he would contact Nick when he has plans to move forward with the donation.

4. Comment re: Spirit Rock painting by Erin Blum – Tom showed a copy of the painting to the group. It was done by local artist Erin Blum and depicts Richard Gonzalez performing the ceremony welcoming the Spirit Rock to its new location in Lime Kiln Park. The cost for the painting is \$675. Tom suggested we ask Blum if we could have permission for a reproduction of the painting.

5. Spirit Rock plaque design and discussion of cost- Tom said that we now have the narrative for the plaque, approved by Gonzalez. The group asked if we could work with the Wisconsin Historical Society to designate it as a Wisconsin Historical site. Tom explained that there is a \$275 fee and a very detailed application form. Approval for the plaque is scheduled for the August 19th Parks and Rec meeting. Nick and Gonzalez will attend. Tom said that initial quotes he has received are about \$3,000 for an outdoor, bronze plaque. Members asked whether the village might be willing to help contribute to that cost. Tom added that Jordan Wright, Culver's owner, is very interested in the history of the Spirit Rock and could possibly help pay for the signage. It was suggested that after the opening week, we present Wright with a Lifetime Membership award.

6. Discussion re: Culver's Share Event/GHS preparation and planning-Tom explained that we have been offered five Share Event days during the opening week of Culver's new restaurant, September 21-26th. We are asked to provide publicity and to provide four volunteers for three of those days. Tom, Steve, Dave, Debbie and John will serve on a committee to plan the GHS participation in the event.

7. Discussion re: Ladies Night Out event 8/4/2026 and GHS participation – Phyllis volunteered to coordinate the GHS participation in Ladies Night Out. **Emily volunteered to partner with Phyllis for the event.**

8. Grafton Library Renovations schedule and tagging of shelving desired- Tom reported that the library will be closed from August 23 to October 7 for renovations. Nick commented that we probably don't want to reserve any of the shelving because there is currently no place for us to store it.

VII. Miscellaneous –

New GHS shirts and name badges – The group agreed that polo shirts would be a good choice for new GHS apparel. Tom will create an order sheet and then we will place an order with Silk Screen Specialists.

VIII. Next Board Meeting:

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1 at 3:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.