Grafton Historical Society

Board of Directors Meeting

October 13, 2026

3:00 p.m.

Grafton Village Hall

Staff Meeting Room

Minutes

I. Call to Order

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

Attendance

Tom Krueger, Steve Greger, John Krueger, Debbie Krueger, Emily Engstrom, Dave Antoine and Jim Miller.

II. President's Comments

Door County Historical Museum – Tom reported that he recently visited the Door County Historical Museum and it was very impressive. He added that he has received an up-date from the Cedarburg Historical Museum. They are a very active, successful museum.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes, September 1, 2026

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

IV. Treasurer's Report

John reported that we have $5,852.00 in our checking account and $15,120.13 in our money market account. John told the group that we have received two donations from Tom Wagner, totaling $4,000. Dave moved that the treasurer's report be approved. Seconded by Jim M. Motion approved.

V. Committee Reports

1. Membership: John reported that there have been no new members since our last board meeting.

2. IT/Website: Tom stated that he adds the minutes, newsletters and meeting notices to the website. He said that he also has added the Culver's promotion and made other revisions. He asked Jenny Bublitz, Bublitz Creative, for statistics for the website, which he shared with the group. He will begin getting a monthly report from her.

3. PR/Communications: Dave suggested linking Facebook to the website. He added the Amish program has been promoted using the Grafton Record, flyers, and digital signs.

4.Archiving and Research Requests: Tom reported that there is an antique dealer in Thiensville who is possibly interested in donating items for the GHS archives. He added that Jack Knetter has a significant number of historic artifacts that he may want to donate. Tom said that he also has a lead on an old map of Grafton. The board discussed updating the website with archive postings. Emily said that newly obtained items can also be posted on Facebook. John told the group that there is a bill due in the next month from American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). We are members of the group to receive a discount on the online Past Perfect software.

5. Program Meetings: Dave and Tom will take care of bringing refreshments for the Amish Program on October 15. The group raised the possibility of a program on John Long. Debbie said that Nick was going to work on contacting Grafton schools to check if they would be interested in this type of program. Dave inquired about the possibility of a program on dairy farms and dairies in Grafton. Debbie said that she hasn't contacted the possible speaker on the Bund program because of possible cost for the program and the possible complications with the program.

6. Other Events and Fundraising: Emily asked Debbie to send the code and list of businesses for Raise Right to Tom. The group also discussed the February fundraiser. A committee was organized with Steve, Tom, John, Dave and Phyllis. John said we will have to do the advance sign-up for the event with Zeffy. For the event we will need a caterer and sponsors. Tom will set a meeting date for November and contact committee members.

7. Oral Interviews: John reported that he has found a "Speech to Text" free program to transcribe the oral interviews. With this program, we would be able to upload an audio file and convert it to text.

Newsletter: Debbie reported that the next newsletter will come out in January, 2027.

Scenes from the Past: Tom said that he submitted a picture of the old wooden Bridge Street dam and the 1929-30 Grafton basketball team to the News Graphic.

VI. Old and New Business

1. Update, if any re: research requests- Tom will begin to forward research requests to Steve. Tom is creating a list of requests. He reported that two recent requests were for Blues artists pictures and early zoning maps for Grafton. Tom said that the village has a lot of old documents. Jim M. volunteered to help sort through them.

2. Update re: Spirit Rock plaque purchase and installation- Tom is in negotiations with the company making the plaque. The stand for the plaque will cost between $350 and $798, not including shipping. The Parks and Rec department said that they can install it. Tom will keep the board members updated.

3. Firm up plans re: Culver's Grand Opening Share Event - Update re: Spirit Rock plaque purchase and installation – Debbie shared a sign-up sheet to volunteer at Culver's with board members. The

original plan is for two volunteers to be greeters at the door and two to deliver food or bus tables. There are a few spaces still available. Tom will ask for volunteers at the Amish presentation. We will bring the display board, membership brochures and possibly a book to our Culver's volunteer sessions. The board agreed that we should plan a photo op for the Culver's check presentation.

4. Update re: ceremony to commemorate the Spirit Rock relocation and plaque addition – Tom reported that there would probably be four Meskwaki delegates attending the ceremony. Dave and Tom will talk with the Grafton Chamber of Commerce to try to secure a reduced rate or free lodging and dining for the delegates. Tom added that Rick Gonzalez believes the ceremony should take place in the Spring, to allow for more planning time.

5. Discuss details/options to recognize the Grafton Culver's and Tommy's Car Wash for their donation commitment to cover the cost of the Spirit Rock plaque - The group discussed a plaque or some type of painting for the restaurant to recognize their contribution. Tom will check with the Ahlers family to find out if they have an old photo of the farmstead. Tom told board members that the painting of the relocation ceremony has been sold. He will check with Erin to find out if we could get a reproduction.

4. General discussion of recognition of sponsors and donors of note- Some suggestions were discussed such as recognition on the website and in the newsletter and a traveling display board.

5. Discussion/update re: polo shirts order form – Tom brought in a sample polo shirt. It was decided that we should order the royal blue color. We are able to order the shirts directly through a website and then Sarah from Silk Screen Specialists in Grafton will do the embroidery.

6. Update re: Grafton Christmas Parade, "Theme: "Christmas Under the Stars and Stripes"; GHS registration – The date of the Christmas

parade is Saturday, November 28th. Dave reported that the truck will again be available and that we have two banner carriers.

VII. Miscellaneous – Ozaukee County History Co-op Meeting – The next meeting of the Ozaukee County History Co-op will be held on Saturday, November 21, at 9:00 a.m. at the Port Washington Historical Society.

VIII. Next board meeting – The next board meeting is set for Tuesday, November 10th at 3 p.m. Location to be determined.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.