
BOT Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2026

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Working Men's Institute was held on August 20, 2026. Attendees included President Nathan Maudlin, Vice-President Connie Weinzapfel, Secretary Christine Crews, Trustee Mike Axton, Director Ryan Rokicki, Circulation Specialist Shannon DeLap and Friends of the Working Men's Institute President, Jeanne Maudlin. Treasurer Tamara Allison was not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July 16, 2026, meeting were sent electronically. Mike Axton moved to accept the minutes which Christine Crews seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Nathan Maudlin then presented the Treasurer's Report. Connie Weinzapfel moved to accept the report and hold for audit, which Christine Crews seconded. The motion carried.

Friends of the WMI

Jeanne Maudlin discussed the 2027 lecture series, stating that next years series will be heavily focused on science.

Upcoming FWMI Events:

September 3-Rick Johnson-Bull Island Rock Festival

September 19 & 20-FWMI Kunstfest Book Sale

November 18-New Harmony Garden Club

Old Business

Archive Expansion Update

A meeting with Johnson, Grossnickle & Associates is planned for September 1, which will involve the entire project committee. The Project Manager, Chuck Minnette, and Ryan met with Gina today and will meet with her again on August 27. Ryan will be meeting with Mr. Minnette tomorrow to go over some of the things discussed in the meeting.

Owen/Maclure 200th

The Committee is focusing on the conference in November. The lectures have been running smoothly and attendance has been good.

Upcoming Owen/Maclure Events:

September 5- Lights of Liberty Drone Show – Ryan will MC this event

September 26- Clark Kimberling at the WMI-*The Sons of Robert Owen*

October 28- Peggy Fisherkeller at the WMI-*The Troost Mineral Collection*

Audio/Visual Equipment Update

Midwest Systems will be here next week to troubleshoot the equipment due to a failure last week.

New Business

Library of Things Policy – The circulation policy for the Library of Things was discussed. A few word changes were decided upon. Ryan will make the changes and send the policy to the Trustees via email for a final read through.

Trustee Term Limits- Mike Axton inquired about the term limits applicable to the trustees and sought clarification regarding the length and limitations of trustee appointments.

Maclure Room Usage Question- This item of discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Surplus Audio/Visual Equipment- Ryan recommended a list of audio/visual equipment to be declared surplus. These items will no longer be in use due to the system upgrades. Christine Crews moved to declare these items as surplus. Connie Weinzapfel seconded the motion. The motion carried. This list will be presented to the Membership for final approval at the October meeting.

Director's Report

Program Highlights

- The Kiwanis Story Time event was held on Thursday, July 23, at 6:30 p.m. Grace Davis read *The Floating House* by Scott Russell Sanders. One child attended. We had two children who were delayed from vacation, and two who had fallen asleep, and their parents didn't want to wake them.
- Our Summer Reading Program concluded on July 30. We extend our thanks to Janey Frayser for her assistance with the program.
- The Owen/Maclure lecture, *The Community of Equality in the Archives*, featuring Heidi Taylor-Caudill, Ryan Rokicki, and Jennifer Greene, was held on August 12 and attended by 41 patrons.
- The first fall session of Preschool Storytime began today. Five children attended.
- Three Saturdays remain in the 2026 New Harmony Farmers and Artisans Market, presented by WMI.
- A group from Millersburg, Kentucky visited the WMI and New Harmony July 22 and 23.

Staff and Administration

- Ryan completed the annual DNR Covenants Questionnaire.
- Our contract with Kanopy has been renewed.
- Last month, Ryan was asked to be a grant reviewer for the Indiana Historical Society's Heritage Support Grant. He found it to be a very educational experience that could benefit future grant writing at the WMI.
- We are pleased to welcome Ann Ferguson as the newest volunteer at the WMI. Ann will be assisting with shelving, weeding, and cataloging books on Tuesday evenings.
- On September 15, Ryan will be presenting at the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society at Willard Library. His presentation will focus on James Penn Bennett.

Upcoming Events

- **August 20, 27, September 3,10,17- 10:30 a.m.-**Preschool Storytime
- **August 26-6:30 p.m. -** Posey Invasive Partnership-Invasive Plant Lecture and Golf Cart Tour
- **August 27-6:30 p.m.-** Kiwanis Story Time-Grace Davis-*The First Blade of Sweetgrass* by Greenlaw and Frey
- **September 3-6:30 p.m.-** FWMI Lecture Series-Rick Johnson will present *Bull Island Rock Festival*.
- **September 5-9:00 a.m.-Noon-**Final Day of Farmers and Artisans Market.
- **September 26-2:00 p.m.-**Clark Kimberling at the WMI-*The Sons of Robert Owen*

Claims

Mr. Rokicki presented the claims. Christine Crews moved to accept the claims, and Connie Weinzapfel seconded. The motion carried.

Adjournment

Christine Crews made the motion to adjourn. Connie Weinzapfel moved to accept the motion. The motion carried.