
BOT Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2026

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Working Men's Institute was held on July 16, 2026. Attendees included Secretary Christine Crews, Treasurer Tamara Allison, Trustee Mike Axton, Director Ryan Rokicki, and Circulation Specialist Shannon DeLap. Those joining by Zoom included President Nathan Maudlin and Friends President Jeanne Maudlin. Vice-President Connie Weinzapfel was not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 18, 2026, meeting were sent electronically. Tamara Allison moved to accept the minutes, which Mike Axton seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Tamara Allison then presented the Treasurer's Report. Christine Crews moved to accept the report and hold for audit, which Mike Axton seconded. The motion carried.

Friends of the WMI

Jeanne Maudlin discussed July 4 programming, commending Director Rokicki on a job well done with his keynote speech. There were approximately 300 attendees.

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

With the grant funds in hand, we are now formally under contract with Johnson, Grossnickle & Associates for the conducting of the feasibility study. They have initiated correspondence regarding the scheduling of organizational meetings, proposed to commence on either August 5 or 6. These meetings will include Director Ryan Rokicki and President Nathan Maudlin. Furthermore, an additional meeting is planned for either August 31, September 1, or September 4, which will involve the entire project committee.

Prospects for the project manager position were then discussed.

Owen/Maclure 200th

The lectures for the remaining portion of the Owen/Maclure 200th have all been organized. We are progressing with the conference planning. Colin Flynn is set to host a podcast on BBC Wales Radio. The exhibit subcommittee is close to finalizing the exhibit's content.

Upcoming Owen/Maclure Events:

August 12- Jennifer Greene, Heidi Taylor-Caudill, Ryan Rokicki-*The Community of Equality in the Archives*

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 is currently awaiting the arrival of components, which had to be reprogrammed. The installation process is anticipated to begin in August.

New Business

This year, the non-resident fee will need to increase from \$375 to at least \$391, as stipulated by the Indiana State Library. Tamara Allison made a motion to set the non-resident fee at \$391, which Christine Crews seconded. The motion carried.

The recipient of this year's Arlene Feiner Grant is Heidi Taylor-Caudill from Historic New Harmony. Her topic will be "The Two Lucys: Lucy Say and Lucy Audubon."

The Town is currently contemplating the hiring of a Town Manager. Lora Arneberg has initiated contact with Professor Berg from Indiana University to seek his assistance in this endeavor. Professor Berg inquired whether the Town possesses a Town Charter or Articles of Incorporation. A student of his searched our (the WMI) online finding aids and uncovered a petition for the incorporation of New Harmony dating back to 1880, along with other documents related to Robert Owen in our Archive. This student has expressed interest in conducting further research within our archives. Nathan Maudlin has requested that the Town consider granting this student \$500 to facilitate travel for more extensive research.

Director's Report

Program Highlights

- The Kiwanis Story Time event occurred on Thursday, June 25, at 6:30 p.m. Ashley Putnam substituted for Nikki Muensterman and read *Should I Share My Ice Cream* by Mo Willems to four children.
- On June 27, the WMI hosted travel journalist Bill Clevlen, who shared insights from his new book, *Presidential Road Trips*, with sixteen attendees. We want to express our gratitude to Ken and Peggy Meyer for their support in making this event possible.
- The Owen/Maclure lecture, *Echoes of New Harmony: Historic Voices, Living Ideas*, held on Saturday, July 11, was attended by fifty-five patrons.
- There is a group coming from Millersburg, Kentucky, next week that is interested in the WMI and New Harmony.

Facilities and Maintenance

- There is a tree on the northeast side of the property that Tom Guggenheim and I are watching. It has a significant split and appears to be hollow in places.
- Our Workers' Comp Insurance has been successfully moved from Cincinnati Insurance to the new policy provider, Accident Fund. The Accident Fund policy will still be managed by Andy Weintraut at McGowan Insurance Group.

Staff and Administration

- Shannon attended the IMLS Library Convening 250: "Telling America's Story" from June 22 to June 24, 2026, in Cincinnati, OH. She participated in workshops focused on community outreach, literacy beyond books, and commemorating America's history for 2026 and beyond. Additionally, she toured the Taft Museum of Art and the Cincinnati Museum Center to gain insights into how they utilize their spaces.
- The items in our Library of Things have all been tagged, and we have made copies of all the manuals.

Upcoming Events

- **July 21-7:00 p.m.** - Membership Meeting-Linda Warrum will be giving the Members' talk titled *From Funeral Director to Clown*.
- **July 23-6:30 p.m.**- Kiwanis Story Time-Grace Davis-*The Floating House* by Scott Russel Sanders
- **July 23, 30-10:30 a.m.**- *Unearth a Story* Summer Reading Program

Claims

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

For the Good of the Order

President Nathan Maudlin expressed his appreciation for Ryan's exceptional delivery of the keynote speech on Independence Day.

Adjournment

Christine Crews made the motion to adjourn. Tamara Allison moved to accept the motion. The motion carried.