

Museum Board Minutes

Special Meeting 5/13/2026 6:00PM

Attending: Rick Long, Jennifer Johnson, Charles Maxwell, Damien Ryder

No members of the public present

Public Comment:

None

Agenda Approved:

Vote - YES: Rick Long, Jennifer Johnson, Charles Maxwell, Damien Ryder NO: None

Change Regular Meeting Schule to the second Wednesday at 5:30PM.

Vote - YES: Rick Long, Jennifer Johnson, Charles Maxwell, Damien Ryder NO: None

Accession of new artifacts review: A discussion was held questioning the historical significance of the proposed artifacts. The board felt there was not enough information to proceed with adding the objects to the museum collection and requested more information. Specifically, what the historical significance is and how it relates to the education of the public about the local area. Items included a relatively modern television set, farm equipment, and a car. A clear historical provenance or historical context was not found and the board agreed that we would like more information before deciding. The matter was tabled.

Deaccession Review of 2026.2, 2025.11, 2025.8, and 2025.6.1: A discussion was held regarding deaccessioning objects thought by some board members to have no historical context. Objects included a modern toy gun still in production, a modern record player, a hay rake, and a chain tightener. The curator was asked to provide historical context and was unable to provide information about its relation to the Arkansas valley historical narrative. The board requested more information and tabled the matter.

Discussion to modernize upstairs floor plan: We discussed the plan to modernize exhibits on the main floor providing a focus on artifacts and historical narratives that educate the public about local history with a deemphasis on objects that are merely antiques.

Discussion to close bottom floor for repairs and maintenance due to ongoing safety concerns: The board heard from Thomas Mullins about ongoing structural and safety concerns as it relates to the floor in the bottom floor of the main building and glass display cases which are unstable or improperly secured.