

East Longmeadow Historical Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting January 6, 2026
Location: History Room East Longmeadow Library

Call to order: 6 pm

Present were Commissioners, Tom Behan, Bruce Moore, Christine Devlin, John Fitzpatrick, George Kingston, Tom O'Brien and John Makara. Associate members in attendance were Brian Bracci, and Simon Brighenti. Contributing to the meeting was Andrea Driscoll. The minutes of the November 4, 2025 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by George, was seconded, all in favor, and the motion was passed.

The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Christine Devlin.

OLD BUSINESS

1. George gave an update on the progress of the History Room archival project. He discovered that prior to the establishment of the Historical Commission, "The File Committee" kept records by gathering & storing newspaper clippings of town news.
2. Suggestions were sought for the Time capsule opening and the July 4th float's plan of action. Tom Behan shared print-outs from the Millennial Time Capsule. Ideas are sought for submissions to go into the new capsule. Andrea was asked to arrange a group meeting with the Springfield Republican and Reminder Publications to start media exposure.
3. Town Bell restoration is on hold for the winter months. CPC grant money is available for Spring restoration.
4. The Knox Trail presentation by Dennis Picard on October 23, 2025 was a successful event. Thank you to the Cultural Council's grant that made it possible.
5. The Commissioner Bio challenge originated by George, is ongoing.
6. The Museum opening date of December 20th was changed to December 6th. It was well attended.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Historical Museum is scheduled to open Saturday, January 17, 2026.
2. The CPC application for funding for the Town Hall's roof is in waiting status.
3. The CPC application for funding for the new time capsule and events is also in waiting status.
4. It has been determined that the old fire station needs an assessment of repairs and decisions need to be made about future use before CPC funds are applied for.
5. Tom O'Brien has been appointed to Commissioner.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Bruce shared his research and discovery of a Tuberculosis camp existing in 1909 to 1912. The camp was located on Fairview and Shaw Street for patients in the early stages of the disease. The clean air and abundant sunlight was a successful treatment for many. The land was leased by a Mr. Shaw, hence Shaw Street which exists today at that location.
2. Bruce shared his facilitation of obtaining a sign for the Rail Trail, donated by Go Graphix. The sign commemorates and is located where a passenger train was derailed March 2, 1900.
3. Bruce shared a 1962 photo of Ray Grabowski's Gulf gas station located where M&T bank sits now.

NEXT MEETING February 3, 2026

ADJOURNMENT A motion to adjourn was made by George at 7:03. The motion was seconded all in favor and the motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Devlin

Clerk, East Longmeadow Historical Commission

