



**Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 @ 6 pm
126 South Monroe Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of May 13, 2026
5. Public Comment
6. Markers Committee
7. Projects Fund Committee
 1. 2026 Projects Fund Recommendations - **Action Needed**
8. Awards Committee
9. New Business
 1. Monroe County Museum System Department Report
 2. Acceptance of Accessions - **Action Needed**
 3. Approval of Deaccessions - **Action Needed**
10. Old Business
 1. Museum Expansion Update
11. Public Comment
12. Board Comments
13. Adjournment

Next Meeting

Call of the Chair

Monroe County Museum
126 South Monroe Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161

2026 Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

(All terms expire December 31, 2026)

Officers	Trustees
Chair Brian Egen, County District 6	Trustee Emeritus Richard Micka
Vice Chair Michelle Lavoy, County District 5	Trustee Barbara Roe, County District 1
Secretary Michael Humphries, County District 8	Trustee Thomas Heywood, County District 2
Immediate Past Chair Hobby Nels	Trustee Sue Wagers, County District 3
	Trustee L William Conner, County District 4
	Trustee Anne Noland, County District 7
	Trustee Nick Guthrie, County District 9

2026 Board of Trustees Committees

(Appointed annually by the board chair)

Executive Committee	<i>Board:</i> Brian Egen (Chair), Michelle Lavoy, Michael Humphries, Hobby Nels <i>Staff:</i> Andrew Clark, JJ Przewozniak
Awards Committee	<i>Board:</i> Michelle Lavoy, Anne Noland, Sue Wagers <i>Staff:</i> Andrew Clark
Markers Committee	<i>Board:</i> Nick Guthrie (Chair), Brian Egen, Michael Humphries, Barbara Roe <i>Staff:</i> Andrew Clark, JJ Przewozniak
Projects Committee	<i>Board:</i> Michael Humphries (Chair), Bill Conner, Brian Egen, Nick Guthrie <i>Staff:</i> Andrew Clark

Mission Statement of the Monroe County Museum System

At the Monroe County Museum, we fuel and cultivate our visitors' curiosity through the exploration of Monroe County's reach and varied stories, joining together to unearth meaning and illuminate relevant connections between the past, present, and future.

Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 // 6:00 PM
Held at the Monroe County Museum
126 South Monroe Street, Monroe, MI 48161

Attendance:

Brian Egen, Chair	District 6	Excused
Richard Micka, Trustee Emeritus		Present
Mike Humphries, Secretary	District 8	Present
Hobby Nels, Immediate Past Chair		Present
Nick Guthrie	District 9	Excused
Thomas Heywood	District 2	Present
Michelle LaVoy, Vice Chair	District 5	Present
Barbara Roe	District 1	Present
Sue Wagers	District 3	Present
L. William Conner, Jr.	District 4	Present
Anne Noland	District 7	Present

Museum System Staff

Andrew Clark, Director

JJ Przewozniak, Deputy Director

Robert Lutey, Lead Historian

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice Chair LaVoy, and roll call was taken by Secretary Humphries.

Mike Humphries made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Thomas Heywood and passed unanimously.

M. Humphries made a motion to approve of the minutes from the 4/8/26 meeting. It was seconded by Anne Noland and passed unanimously.

1st Public Comment: None

Markers Committee Update: Andrew Clark gave some background regarding the three markers that were up for a vote which included markers for Newport Community Church, Oak Grove Cemetery, and Maple Grove Cemetery. It was decided to vote on each maker separately and William Conner made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Markers Committee and

approve the marker for the Newport Community Church. It was seconded by M. Humphries and passed unanimously, with the exception of Sue Wagers who abstained from the vote.

T. Heywood moved to approve the wording of the Oak Grove Cemetery marker. It was seconded by A. Noland and passed unanimously, with the exception of Barbara Roe who abstained.

M. Humphries moved to accept the Maple Grove Cemetery marker as presented, and it was seconded by A. Noland. It passed unanimously with the exception of B. Roe who abstained.

Projects Fund Committee Update: M. Humphries said that the committee has five applications for grant money. While the committee has not met to discuss them yet, the applications that make it through the committee will be brought before the whole board at next month's meeting. Humphries added that the applications are generally in good shape with only a few minor questions. The applications include requests from Bedford Township for the preservation of Banner Oak School, the Erie Area Historians for a historical marker, the Genealogical Society of Monroe County for newspaper preservation, the Milan Area Historical Society for upgrades to their presentation abilities, and the Monroe County Labor History Museum for a Newton Steel strike documentary project.

W. Conner said that he intends to recuse himself from the committee's discussions due to his involvement with the Labor History Museum. M. Humphries said that he would welcome Conner's opinion, even if he doesn't participate in the discussion itself.

Awards Committee Update: Michelle LaVoy said that there is still time to submit nominees for consideration. A. Clark put forward a slate of potential nominees, though LaVoy noted that some people are suggesting that it may be better to wait for nominees to be made from outside of the board. The committee will have a meeting on May 29th and will suggest to the full board either a slate of recommended awardees or a different approach altogether.

New Business: M. Humphries made a motion to accept the department report as presented. It was seconded by T. Heywood and passed unanimously.

A. Noland asked about accession 2026.19, which was an unsolicited drop-off donation. She noted that the upcoming collections policy stresses the importance of an identified donor and asked how the item accepted as 2026.19 follows that procedure. Robert Lutey replied that donor information must be collected if the donor is known, and that remains the normal and preferred way to accept donations. However, the museum retains the ability to accept drop-off donations where the donor is unknown, even if the practice is discouraged.

M. Humphries moved to accept the accessions as presented. It was seconded by S. Wagers and passed unanimously.

M. Humphries made a motion to note the lack of deaccessions. It was seconded by S. Wagers and passed unanimously.

A. Clark gave a brief update regarding the updated collections policy, saying that it will be updated again to reflect any comments made by the board prior to being reviewed by the county's legal team. After that review, the board will vote on the policy's acceptance.

R. Lutey listed the comments he had already received regarding the policy. These included spelling out the acronym "NAGPRA" for the sake of clarity, adding a disclosure agreement to enable board members to be transparent about any private collections they may have, and the rewording of the last sentence in section V, subsection B.

W. Conner asked if the collections policy is part of the by-laws of the museum or if it is more of a management policy. A. Clark responded that it is not in the by-laws and it is just a policy that is being revised from 2015.

M. Humphries encouraged R. Lutey to keep up communication with the board regarding the collections policy updates.

Old Business: M. LaVoy updated the group regarding the museum expansion presentation that was recently made to the Monroe County Board of Commissioners. She said that a number of community and business leaders spoke positively about the museum and the economic development that may come with the building project. A. Clark added information on the bidding process and noted that Kohler said that a healthy number of contractors were interested in the project. He also said that the county commissioners were very supportive of the expansion. M. Humphries said that the reactions he saw from the public regarding the project were largely positive as well. A. Clark noted that there will be a public open house at the museum on May 28. This event will provide community members with an opportunity to express any questions or concerns regarding the expansion.

W. Conner asked if the county administrator is responsible for awarding the contracts to the contractors. A. Clark replied that while the county administrator does have the final say, he gets feedback from various county staff members and others. W. Conner also asked if the county has any preference for hiring contractors from within Monroe County. A. Clark replied that he is not aware of any such policy.

A. Noland asked how the preparations for the closure are going. A. Clark responded that staff is in the difficult position of trying to move forward with preparations while simultaneously having very limited space to do so. M. Humphries asked if there are any plans to lay off staff for the duration of the closure. A. Clark replied that there are no such plans and added that there will be plenty of work for staff to do during the closure.

2nd Public Comment: None

Board Comments: Richard Micka mentioned that the TMACOG (Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments) has changed its name to the Lake Erie West Regional Council.

T. Heywood thanked the contingent of staff members and trustees who attended the building project presentation to the Monroe County Board of Commissioners.

S. Wagers mentioned that she was not able to attend the aforementioned meeting due to working the polls during the local election. She also reiterated her excitement for the upcoming flag project.

A. Noland said that she wasn't able to attend the meeting due to a conflict with work she was doing for the woman's domestic violence shelter. She added that she was looking forward to encouraging people to come to the museum on May 28th for the open house. She also said that she was excited to attend the Gardens of Stone event at the museum.

B. Roe said that she did attend the meeting and appreciated what was said. She added that her flag project kits are almost done.

Hobby Nels asked when the Navarre House was constructed and when the board could expect the results of the recent bullet scanning evaluation. JJ Przewozniak replied that the building was built no later than 1789 and that he has no timeline for the evaluation. The scholars are still doing their work. A discussion ensued regarding the side panel that once existed on the house which showed where the bullet strikes were. Przewozniak said investigations are underway to redo that in some way, possibly adding a door or flap of some sort to cover the area when it is not being viewed.

W. Conner asked if any thought has been given to naming the addition or part of the addition after a woman who recently donated a significant sum of money to the museum. A number of trustees expressed their support for this idea.

M. Humphries said that he is very excited for the museum expansion. He also said that he was happy to see positive comments on social media regarding the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Robert Lutey on May 18, 2026.

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM

Department Report

Compiled and submitted by Andrew Clark, Director
with contributions from
JJ Przewozniak, Deputy Director and Robert Lutey, Lead Historian

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Director's Report

Submitted by Andrew Clark, Director

Operating Hours

County Museum

Hours of operation are Sundays through Saturdays, 10 am to 5 pm.

County Archives

Closed for construction preparations.

Territorial Park

Thursdays: 10 am to 4 pm

Fridays: 10 am to 4 pm

Saturdays: 10 am to 4 pm

Vietnam Veterans Museum

Fridays: 10 am to 4 pm

Saturdays: 10 am to 4 pm

St Antoine's Historic Site

Grounds are open year round.

Upcoming Scheduled Closures

Closed Friday, June 19 for Juneteenth

County Museum closes for construction preparation beginning Monday, July 6.

Upcoming Events

June 14

First Flag Community Sewing Day

Monroe County Museum

10 am

Free and open to the public.

July 11

Promoting the Public Good

Territorial Park on the River Raisin

10 am

Free and open to the public.

July 25

Nations and Cannons: A Revolutionary Role-Playing Experience

Our House Games

12 pm

Free and open to the public; registration required

August 2 to 8

Monroe County Fair

October 2 and 3

Monroe County Fair

Maintenance and Operations

Museum and Archives

Nothing of significance to report.

Territorial Park

Please see JJ's report.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum

Two more names were added to the Monroe County Vietnam Veterans Memorial:

Robert L. Adams and Arthur L. Adams.

St Antoine's Historic Site Memorial

Nothing to report.

Exhibits Update

Next project in development is the First Flag exhibit for Monroe County Fair.

Building Program

We hosted a Community Open House on May 28 regarding the expansion project.

Chairman Egen and our architect Keith Kohler presented on the project.

Deadline for bids was extended by one week; they are now due on Thursday, June 11 at 3 pm.

The County Archives closed on June 1. We have already made significant progress in preparing the (former) County Archives, Programs/Visitor Services, and Basement for construction.

Markers Program

The recast *The Railroad Well/Gertrude Crampton* and *South Rockwood Evangelical Church/John Strong Jr.* were retrieved from Sewah Studios on May 26. We also took delivery of the refurbished *Tecumseh's Headquarters*, *The Civic Improvement Society of Monroe/Soldiers and Sailors Park*, and *Grand Army of the Republic/Monroe County and the Civil War*.

The Railroad Well/Gertrude Crampton, *The Civic Improvement Society of Monroe/Soldiers and Sailors Park*, and *Grand Army of the Republic/Monroe County and the Civil War* have all been reinstalled. *Tecumseh's Headquarters* will be transferred to the City of Monroe for reinstallation. Date for the installation of the *South Rockwood Evangelical Church/John Strong Jr.* has not yet been set.

Historical Projects Fund

Projects Fund applications have been distributed to the committee. Recommendations will be presented at the June meeting.

Awards Program

Committee to report at June meeting.

Personnel Updates

There are no update at this time.

Future Meeting Recommendation

Based on scheduled program commitments and the necessity to prepare the County Archives and County Museum for pending construction, I recommend that the regular board meetings scheduled for July 8 and August 12 be cancelled in order that staff may focus on these projects. The director can send out updates via email. If there is any action that requires the approval of the board, a special meeting can be called.

I would recommend that the September meeting be held in the barn at Territorial Park. Beginning in October, we could meet at various locations throughout Monroe County as we have done previously. The County Commissioner Chambers at the Courthouse are also an option.

Hodge Podge

I attended the grand opening of Arthur Lesow Community Center on June 1. If you want to get a bit of a sneak preview of the museum expansion, I recommend dropping in and looking around.

Programs Division Report
Submitted by JJ Przewozniak, Deputy Director

Territorial Park:

- On Friday May 8, the programs division planted new “Jesuit” pear trees at the eastern end of TPRR. All but one of the 8 new trees are grafts from the elder trees on the property, with the final one being a similar type, included for genetic diversity. This is the culmination of a 2 year project that answers the issue of the oversized pear trees on the property. As they near the end of their lives, we can rest assured that the venerated heirloom species will continue to thrive at the MCMS. The new location will create a pleasing green barrier, and will allow for easy access to a regular maintenance program that will keep them at a manageable size, in time assuring us of a regular pear harvest and healthy trees. Presently, the little trees are doing well in their new forever home.
- This month, sheer brute force and a bit of basic chemistry gradually brought our field back to life. This included our annual session with the ~~ol’ tooth-loosener~~ rototiller, weed removal, fertilizer application, and hand planting a new-to-us variety of flint corn (Otto File) alongside Long Island Cheese pumpkins. At present, the corn is up about 5 inches, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the plantings have been thinned, mounded, and intercropped with pumpkins in historic fashion. In addition, the Jerusalem artichokes are doing splendidly in their second season and I anticipate a lovely burst of flowers later this season.
- All buildings at TPRR were treated for stinging insects on Tuesday, May 19.
- Memorial Day weekend saw the beginning of regular living history programming at TPRR. Special thanks to the programs division for rapid and thorough site prep. At present, end-of-week operations at the park have been a bustle of historic site curation & public education, historic & discreetly modern site/gardens/grounds maintenance, and assisting as able with moving needs at the museum.
- Mechanized grounds maintenance this month included grading and general clean-up of the work site around the Navarre house, and a fresh topcoat of gravel for all the paths around the domestic enclosure.

Miscellaneous:

- Friday May 1 was Agriculture Awareness Day at the County Fairgrounds. The corn sheller was once again a huge hit with schoolkids as was the hand cranked grain mill, making the educational content stick a bit more through hands-on learning and tactile experiences.
- Throughout this period, I along with all museum staff have been busy moving heavy things in preparation for building construction. Special thanks to everyone for

pitching in, acting with an ideal combination of care, safety, and drive.

- Lake Erie Water Festival was Wednesday, May 13. Thanks to a full complement of MCMS presenters, organized throngs of local students learned all about how beavers, muskrats, minks, and otters played a vital role in the fur trade as well as in our current ecosystem.
- After hours programming this month included Jeff Green's program on rural cemeteries on Thursday, May 14, and also the Museum Expansion House Thursday May 28.
- The 1796: Our First Flag project continues at good speed. Thanks to the small army of volunteer sewists, all stripe sections have been returned to MCM, and Lily and PB have been hard at work sewing them together at every possible opportunity. We're all looking forward to the community sewing day June 14, and eager for the completed 1796 flag. Very special thanks to all the talented volunteers across multiple partner organizations.
- Special thanks to Sabrina Miller for the donation of a small treasury of living history supplies on May 6.
- Special thanks to Dan Foster, who applied care, talent, and expertise to grafting and caring for our new Jesuit pear trees over the past 2 years. Thanks to his skill and generous use of his time and facilities, the precious story of the "French pear trees" can continue to cultivate our visitors' curiosity for generations to come.

Collections Division Report
Submitted by Robert Lutey, Lead Historian

Research requests/contacts: 110

Phone: 45

Mail: 0

Email: 35

In-person: 30

Andy, Dana, Mike, and I cleaned out the Vietnam Vets Museum for the season.

Mike, Drake, Nicholas, Andy, and I reinstalled new historical markers around the county.

Rachel, Dana, and I took photos documenting the current museum exhibits, building, and collections storage areas.

Rachel and I participated in a film showing the closure of the museum.

Rachel, Dana, and I have all spent a great deal of time preparing for the upcoming move by cleaning out desks, putting file cabinets on dollies, strapping up stacks of newspaper books, moving materials from fixed shelving to rolling racks, and more.

Rachel and I attended the last GSMC monthly meeting to be held at the museum (until 2028, hopefully).

Research requests and appointments increased significantly during May due to the upcoming closure. Just some of the topics that Rachel and I worked on this month include Old French Town Days, William G. Bruck service records, 1940s Petersburg Sun articles, house research, genealogy research, Dr. James Waltz's manuscript on Monroe County History, and much more.

Monroe County Museum System

Collections Division

Accessions Report

May 2026

Accession Number	Donor	Item(s)
2026.23	Andrew Clark	Cardboard shipping box manufactured by Bay Corrugated Container, Inc.
2026.24	Genealogical Society of Monroe County	1965 Milan High School “Milanium” yearbook.
2026.25	Janine M. Anteau	Heck/Jondro family baptismal gown.
2026.26	Jack Sage	Photograph of the 1931 Hall of the Divine Child baseball team.
2026.27	Norm Evans	Framed board containing military medals.

There were no non-accession transfers made in May 2026.

Monroe County Museum System

Collections Division

Deaccessions Report

May 2026

There are no deaccessions for May 2026.