



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

Wednesday, April 8, 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 March 11, 2026
5. Public Comment
6. Markers Committee
7. Projects Fund Committee
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**
 4. Collections Policy Discussion
10. Old Business
 1. Museum Expansion Update
11. Public Comment
12. Board Comments
13. Adjournment

Next Meeting

May 13, 2026 @ 6 pm
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, March 11, 2026 // 6:00 PM
Held at the Monroe County Museum
126 South Monroe Street, Monroe, MI 48161

Attendance:

Brian Egen, Chair	District 6	Present
Richard Micka, Trustee Emeritus		Excused
Mike Humphries, Secretary	District 8	Present
Hobby Nels, Immediate Past Chair		Excused
Nick Guthrie	District 9	Present
Thomas Heywood	District 2	Present
Michelle LaVoy, Vice Chair	District 5	Excused
Barbara Roe	District 1	Present
Sue Wagers	District 3	Present
L. William Conner, Jr.	District 4	Absent
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 Chairman Egen, and roll call was taken by Secretary Humphries.

Nick Guthrie made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Anne Noland and passed unanimously.

Thomas Heywood made a motion to approve of the minutes from the 2/11/26 meeting. It was seconded by Michael Humphries and passed unanimously.

1st Public Comment: None

Markers Committee Update: N. Guthrie said that the committee is hoping to meet prior to next month's board meeting. Director Clark added that he is hoping to have three new markers to present to the board for approval next month.

Projects Fund Committee Update: M. Humphries said that the applications are due at the end of March, so he anticipates having more to report at next month's meeting. He added that he is expecting to be able to forward the completed applications to the other committee members prior to the next board meeting. B. Egen praised the committee for being adaptable and changing the rules to make the program more attractive.

Awards Committee Update: A. Clark said that applications are due at the end of the month and asked that the trustees forward an application to the committee if they know of anyone who would be a good fit for one of the awards.

New Business: T. Heywood made a motion to accept the department reports and was supported by N. Guthrie. A discussion ensued regarding the smell that was mentioned in A. Clark's report. A. Clark also highlighted the part of his report that detailed which sections of the museum will have to be vacated prior to construction. He mentioned some upcoming challenges including the removal of the back door and the south stairwell becoming the only usable staircase in the building. B. Egen asked about access during construction and A. Clark responded that he currently believes that either the first floor of the museum will be accessible or the archives will be accessible. M. Humphries asked about off-site storage facilities owned by the county. A. Clark responded that the county has only ever offered space which museum staff sees as inadequate for the storage of artifacts. B. Egen suggested taking photos of the museum space as it exists now in order to document it. Discussion also ensued regarding the legality of no longer being ADA-compliant while also being open to the public. The aforementioned motion was brought up for a vote and passed unanimously.

N. Guthrie made a motion to accept the accessions and was supported by Sue Wagers. It passed unanimously, with M. Humphries abstaining.

M. Humphries made a motion to acknowledge the absence of items up for deaccession. It was supported by N. Guthrie and passed unanimously.

A. Clark and Robert Lutey introduced an updated draft of the collections policy to the board. The trustees will be given time to read it and it should be up for a vote at next month's meeting. S. Wagers asked if paper items will still be accepted under the new policy. A. Clark answered in the affirmative. Wagers also asked if there would be a conflict of interest for her to acquire items for the Berlin Township Historical Society, which she is also part of. Deputy Director Przewozniak said that the policy targets trustees acting as individuals rather than on behalf of other organizations.

Old Business: B. Egen and A. Clark gave a brief update regarding the building expansion, showing the group plans that included updated colors and finishes. They went over the exterior and interior of the building. A. Clark is hoping to begin the contractor bidding process by May, and July is the target for the beginning of construction.

2nd Public Comment: None

Board Comments: S. Wagers expressed her excitement for the building project and also noted that Michael Bosanac and Jack's Bicycles both won awards from the League of Michigan Bicyclists for their work in the county. She also mentioned her anticipation for the flag project.

A. Noland had nothing to say.

Barbara Roe mentioned that she was happy that the Dundee Old Mill Museum is not the only museum whose numbering system changed multiple times over the years.

M. Humphries expressed his anticipation for the start of construction.

N. Guthrie expressed his appreciation for the work that was done on the collections policy.

R. Lutey thanked the group for taking the time to read the lengthy collections policy.

JJ Przewozniak thanked the group for their continued support and mentioned that he recently overcame a hurdle regarding the fabric for the flag project.

A. Clark advertised the museum's upcoming "Knife at the Museum" event.

B. Egen said that he was involved in Michigan History Day judging, along with members of the museum staff. He also expressed his excitement for construction.

M. Humphries made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by N. Guthrie and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Robert Lutey on March 26, 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, April 8, 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

Mondays and Tuesdays: By Appointment

Wednesdays: 10 am to 4.30 pm

Thursdays: 1 pm to 4.30 pm

Fridays: 1 pm to 4.30 pm

Territorial Park

Historic buildings closed for the season; grounds open.

Vietnam Veterans Museum

Museum closed for the season; memorial open.

St Antoine's Historic Site

Grounds are open year round.

Upcoming Scheduled Closures

There are no scheduled closures.

Upcoming Events

April 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26

YesterWays: Make a Cockade!

Monroe County Museum

11 am to 3 pm

Free and open to the public.

April 15

Frenchtown Spinners Guild

Monroe County Museum

4 pm to 7 pm

April 16

Michigan and American Independence with Speaker Craig Wilson
Monroe County Museum
7 pm

April 17

Last Stand in the American Imagination/
Battlefield Archaeology
Ellis Library
5 pm

April 25

Earth Day Expo
MCCC
11 am to 2 pm

April 26

Earth Day Fair
Milan
11 am to 3 pm

May 1

Ag Day
Monroe County Fairgrounds
9 am to 2 pm

May 2

GSMC Monthly Meeting
Monroe County Museum
1 pm to 3 pm

May 13

Lake Erie Water Festival
IHM
TBA

Maintenance and Operations*Museum and Archives*

No substantial maintenance issues to report.

After not relying on boiler heat for several weeks, the stink reappeared following last week's heavy rainfall. It started in my office and migrated into the first floor galleries on the south side of the building.

A contractor from the RRCA has continued the exterior brick work and has had to once again make use of the museum's parking lot for an extended period. Maintenance work should be wrapping up sometime this week.

Territorial Park

The bullet hole observational window popped off the Navarre House during a day of high winds. It was not replaced due to the upcoming siding work this month.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum

Quarterly replacement of the service flags outside the museum took place last month.

St Antoine's Historic Site Memorial

Nothing to report.

Exhibits Update

Preparation work continues for our upcoming Semiquincentennial exhibit. Exhibit Specialist Mike Nelligan has been able to patch up and rehab some of our older cases that have been showing some wear and tear.

Building Program

The last full meeting of the committee was held in late March. We continue to be engaged with the individual contractors on smaller elements of the project.

The latest conceptual drawings will be presented at the April meeting along with a follow up from last month regarding museum site operations for the duration of construction.

Markers Program

We are unable to have a slate of markers for approval in April but should have one in May.

Some of last year's refurbishments are nearing refinishing and should be back to Monroe County before the end of the month. The foundry indicated that the plates of two markers (*Tecumseh's Headquarters* and *Death of Capt. Woolfolk*) are too cracked to repair.

Two new markers are still awaiting the manufacturing process.

Historical Projects Fund

The Historical Projects Fund application for 2026 closed on Tuesday, March 31. We received applications spanning from Milan to Bedford. A more comprehensive overview of applications will be presented at the May meeting.

Awards Program

The public nomination deadline for the 2026 Spirit of Service Awards Program closed on Tuesday, March 31.

Personnel Updates

There are no Personnel Updates at this time.

American Semiquincentennial

Work continues on our large and small Semiquincentennial projects.

I received notice that on Arbor Day, Friday, April 23 at 3 pm, "Michigan's only 250-year-old Bicentennial Tree" will receive a new plaque. The event is at the DTE Newport Service Center at 8950 North Telegraph Road. The event is sponsored by DTE and there will be a short ceremony and refreshments.

Programs Division Report

Submitted by JJ Przewozniak, Deputy Director

- On Tuesday, March 17, we celebrated a traditional St. Patrick's Day holiday by hosting the students of Trinity Lutheran for a living museum event. A great time was had by all.
- This month witnessed the culmination of our work in maple sugaring. In an expansion since last year, we offered a public program day in addition to a day reserved for school visits and residents. For those events, we created the historic setting of an early 1800s maple sugaring operation, set with appropriate gear and accoutrements, where visitors could encounter a seasonal process demonstration from yesteryear. Over the years, this program has grown into a substantial, authentic effort made possible by investments in supplies and manpower that allow us to safely and effectively harvest a real, important food product that 1) connects maple season work to the fulfillment of an authentic lifeways demonstration at TPRR; and 2) lends a degree of authenticity and imminence to the work which evokes connection and buy-in from everyone involved. At the time of this writing, spiles have been pulled and assorted gear is awaiting cleaning and replacing for next year. Special thanks to our friends at Saint Therese IHM Senior Living for once again hosting us on their historic campus and allowing the tapping of their wonderful trees. Special thanks to the staff for the tireless work, and special thanks to our great maple camp volunteers Chairman Egen, and Geoff Hoerauf.
- On Tuesday, March 10 we hosted a small group of civics/social studies students from SMCC for a museum tour, scavenger hunt, and a special look behind-the-scenes in the archives.
- On March 27 and 28, I and several staff attended the Michigan in Perspective Local History Conference at Oakland University. We had a great time sharing Monroe County history and good cheer with conference-goers and professional colleagues.
- The summit of our participation in OBOC occurred on Saturday, March 28, with A Knife at the Museum event. It was a mystery theatre interactive program during which visitors encountered a number of characters from 1947 in an effort to root out the culprit behind Monroe's most infamous (and fictitious) heist. Thanks to our community's help the culprit was apprehended and will face the sobering gaze of justice for their crime. Special thanks to Jill, and to the museum staff for working together to create a memorable and fun experience for our visitors. Additional thanks to Jake Zettelmaier for the loan of a key prop.
- YesterWays continues! The March hands-on activity was paper making. The old adage tells us that the size of the mess indicates the level of fun, and this was no exception. As we bid farewell to paper mush, we turn our gaze to the venerable cockade—our April activity—which meshes nicely with the nationwide America250 theme.

- Sewing and related period clothing work continues. With the intensity of an olympian, Lily finished sewing trim on our capotes just a day before maple sugaring! These days, new petticoats and short gowns are on the table, with a treasury of more projects slated for afterward. Special thanks to all of our staff sew-ers.
- Assorted programming and operational coordination are always ongoing. Aside from the immediacy of maple sugaring, this month my available focus was applied to the building expansion, YesterWays development, America250 programming, and the looming April work at TPRR.

Collections Division Report
Submitted by Robert Lutey, Lead Historian

Research requests/contacts: 110
Phone: 22
Mail: 7 (31 obits requested)
Email: 47
In-person: 34

Dana and I attended the Historical Society of Michigan's Local History Conference. We had a booth this year, which made it especially easy to engage people about the archives and the museum in general. I almost ran out of business cards to hand out!

I updated a number of our finding guides.

I gave a tour of the archives to a group of around five SMCC students and their teacher, Kyle McElvany. The students have an interest in history and it was a pleasure to have the opportunity to show them a potential history-related career path.

Rachel and I participated in the "Knife at the Museum" event. The visitors seemed to have a good time and I hope that it was successful for OBOC.

Dana and I scanned about 40 record books from Woodland Cemetery that originally belonged to Jane Sommer.

While the books will be going elsewhere, we will have the digitized copies here at the museum for research.

PB and I stayed late on March 17th for a "Living Museum" event put on by students from Trinity Lutheran School. The event brought in about 70 people and fun was had by all.

I will be making another run up to Mark Gervasi's studio on April 2nd to retrieve the materials he has worked on and to give him new artifacts in need of his services.

Rachel and I attended the G.S.M.C. monthly meeting on March 7th.

Dana has helped me with processing donations and replaced the flags at the Vietnam Veterans Museum.

I took down the United Way exhibit on March 16 and returned their artifacts to them. They were very appreciative of our efforts to help them celebrate their centennial.

Research requests have continued to be handled by Rachel and myself. Topics of interest included county roads/bridges, LaDuc family baptismal and birth records, early

settlers, genealogy research, 1901 Lang Map research, the centennial of the Battle of the River Raisin, and the LaCroix/LaFountain home.

Monroe County Museum System

Collections Division

Accessions Report

March 2026

Accession Number	Donor	Item(s)
2026.7 (Finalized)	Michael Humphries	Dundee Fair souvenir axe, 1906
2026.8 (Finalized)	Jon Moore	Political paraphernalia from the 2024 Democratic National Convention
2026.9	Scott Jacobs	Cold War military uniform and accessories once belonging to Edwin F. Jacobs
2026.10	Betty Curley	Two “halo” style hats and a calot hat. Also a vintage hat holder
2026.11	Jim Ryland	Three booklets and an envelope relating to Alcoa
2026.12	Paula Hudson	Ticket for 2000 Al Gore/Bill Clinton visit
2026.13	Anne Zochowski	Five photographs of Monroe people and places
2026.14	Paul Toburen	Collection of archival materials once belonging to Edna Toburen including photos, MHS items, St. Mary’s College items, and genealogical research
2026.15	Barbara Roe	Bonnet made by Beverly Heck as a reenacting piece
2026.16	Zachary Garman	Two albums of Monroe High School track and cross country photographs
2026.17	Earl Freimark	Four Monroe scrapbooks containing MEN articles
2026.18	Jim Ryland	A Monroe Bank & Trust coin purse

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

Monroe County Museum System
Collections Division
Deaccessions Report
March 2026

There are no deaccessions for March 2026.