

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Franklin Historical Society

April 2, 2026

Submitted by Robert E. Desrochers, Jr., Secretary

At 7:00pm on Thursday, April 2, 2026, twenty-three people gathered at Peabody Place for the monthly meeting of the Franklin Historical Society. It was the inaugural meeting of the season. The main program consisted of a talk entitled, “Soldier’s Memorial Hall, A Look Back and Forward,” presented by Society President, Leigh Webb. Those in attendance learned about the origins of G.A.R. Hall, which, in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War, represented a significant civic commitment to commemorating the sacrifices and honoring the memories of those who served in the Grand Army of the Republic. Discussion of the theater, commonly known as the opera house, noted that its original capacity was 800 (500 on the floor; 300 in the balcony), and also that John Philip Sousa played there twice. All that brass on such a small stage must’ve made quite an auditory impression.

Following refreshments (provided by Leigh and Annette), the Society held its monthly business meeting.

- The **Secretary’s minutes** from the last meeting (November) were approved (Annette Andreozzi moved; Elizabeth Jewell seconded).
- The **Treasurer’s minutes** for the last meeting were approved (Annette Andreozzi moved; Annette Cain seconded).
- Karen Darling presented the current **Treasurer’s report** on behalf of Dan Darling. The report included handout detailing the Society’s finances.
- **Old Business:** Propane tanks: Discussion ensued about fencing around the tanks, to be completed in the Spring. The estimated cost to the Society is \$650. President Webb requested permission to move forward. Elizabeth Jewell put the motion; Cyndy Campbell seconded.
- **Committee Reports:**
 - Building (Leigh Webb): Gardens need thinning / clean up day.
 - Facebook (Frank Genus): Steady traffic reported, new members / people interested and engaged.
 - Education (Chris Lewis): Discussed possibility of putting QR codes on various buildings around West Franklin to the Elks Club. The larger goal is to help teachers and students incorporate Franklin history into appropriate

social studies curriculum. A trip to the museum by local 4th graders was discussed.

- **New / Other business:**

- Possible paid position as site manager for Webster Birthplace
- Community Day is May 9th the Society needs volunteers from 10am to 2pm.
- There is an Easter Seal event on June 28 – does the Historical Society want to be open? Volunteers?
- Plant sale
- Regional historical societies meeting in early May
- Sanbornton Historical Society offering “Lunch and Stories”

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Next meeting: May 7, 2006.