

**Minutes of the Etna Historical Society Meeting**  
**Monday, Feb. 23, 2026**  
**Trumbull Hall, 5:00 PM**

**Welcome and Introductions**

We started the meeting by going around the table and introducing ourselves.

**Recorded Histories (Liz Marshall)**

Liz reported on 5 sessions of oral histories that have been completed. Two were with Dick Baughman, two were with Ron and Ellie Farr, and one was with Bill Elder, Norma and Ken Pelton, Ron and Ellie Far, Dick Baughman, and Liz and Matt Marshall. The library has the interviews posted on its website.

<https://www.etna-library.org/oral-histories>

For each one, there is a video file, an audio file, and a transcript file (imperfect) in pdf format. We hope to schedule more interviews as soon as possible. In addition, there are tapes at the library of old interviews that we will try to add to the mix.

Liz reported that Lindsay McLure Miller had contacted her. She and her husband Scott McLure Miller run the World Story Exchange. This group worked with Ray School students in 2024 to learn how to interview people (mostly other students) and record stories. The Millers will be in the Upper Valley this summer. We agreed to look into the possibility of contracting with them to help us with interviews of Etna residents. This will require fundraising but all agreed that we need to investigate the possibility further.

**Cemeteries (Kari Asmus)**

Kari Asmus reported on plans for the annual Muster Day celebration in the Hanover Center Cemetery on Memorial Day, Monday May 25 at 3pm. She had sent lists of revolutionary soldiers who are buried in Hanover cemeteries and there are 53 buried in Hanover Center. The scouts will be there and John Stebbins, a Son of the American Revolution, will be a guest speaker. The Lyme band will also be on hand. There will be a tent, and a call for donations of food.

Volunteers are needed for Muster Day. The plan is to have each of the 53 graves marked with flowers (thanks to the Hanover Garden Club) and to have someone stationed near each one to read the name of the veteran. Volunteers are asked to choose one or two of the veterans, research them to find information, if possible, and then recite the name(s) and optionally, bio(s), during the Muster Day ceremony. Research can be done using ancestry and genealogy websites (available at the library) and the [Patriot Research System](#) compiled by the Sons of the American Revolution. If anyone is interested in getting involved, please sign up at the Etna Library or send a note to [liz.m.marshall@gmail.com](mailto:liz.m.marshall@gmail.com).

Petra Sergent offered two dates where she could teach people about cleaning gravestones properly. The date chosen by the group was Saturday, May 9 from 10am to 12pm.

### **250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Events (Jeff Metzler)**

Jeff reviewed a list of events that the library is planning for May, June and July in honor of the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of our nation.

There was a meeting recently at the RW Black Center to discuss ideas for other events that incorporate Etna and Hanover Center. Ideas proposed included mailbox decorating and putting out flags in front of houses. There is money in the budget that could be used, to buy flags, for example. Another planning meeting will be held but the date is not yet set. If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to [Kari.Asmus@outlook.com](mailto:Kari.Asmus@outlook.com).

### **Mink Brook & Home: A Postwar Hanover Memoir, Vol. I (Jeff Metzler)**

Jeff reported on Jay Barrett's new book. There is a copy at the library and it has been very popular! It is available for purchase through [Barnes & Noble](#). Jay will be giving a lecture on his book on Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 7pm at Trumbull Hall.

### **Researching Property History (Liz Marshall)**

Katie Partridge is researching Native ceremonial stone landscapes. She is interested in learning more about the history of our land – animals, mills, artifacts, and division of parcels, for example. If anyone is interesting in talking with her about her project, please contact her at [ktpartridge@gmail.com](mailto:ktpartridge@gmail.com).

### **Etna Firehouse (Tim Bent)**

Tim reported that the firehouse is nearly empty. The Zamboni is gone! We hope to set up a meeting with the Hanover fire chief and perhaps other town officials to discuss the next steps. One idea is to use the building, which dates to 1926, as a museum. The roof is good but the building will need to have some systems updated (heat, power, etc.).

### **Other Discussions**

A number of people are interested in going through boxes of materials (from the Howe) that are at the Etna Library. Jeff will set up a date and time and let the website and library resources committee know.

Tabitha Sabky has been looking at town records of several historic homes and thinks that some of the dates are incorrect. She is interested in visiting some homes and helping owners better understand elements that suggest a certain age. She is hoping to give a lecture on this topic later this year and will talk about historic preservation as well.

## **Working Groups**

- Website and Library Resources
  - Jeff Metzler, John Stebbins, Paul Tobias, Ann Malenka, Tabitha Sabky, Liz Marshall
- Oral Histories
  - Ron Farr, Ellie Farr, Olivia Gentile, Liz Marshall
- Cemeteries
  - Elizabeth Cornell, Tabitha Sabky, Kevin Knuuti, Petra Sergent, Dick Baughman, Lisa Silbert, Kari Asmus
- Buildings, Land, Mills, Factories & Schoolhouses
  - Tim Bent, Kevin Knuuti, Tabitha Sabky

Final Note: If you are interested in working with any of these groups, please send a note to [liz.m.marshall@gmail.com](mailto:liz.m.marshall@gmail.com).