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## SHPC Meeting Summary – April 20, 2026

### Opening

- Meeting opened with Pledge of Allegiance
  - Chair absent; meeting facilitated informally
  - No comments or changes to prior (March) minutes
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### Old Business

#### Annual Report (Chippewa)

- Draft circulated previously
- No additional input received

#### Membership / Terms

- Clarification: Alternate members serve **4-year terms**
- Intent is to avoid all members rotating off at once

#### Wynkoop House

- No updates, applications, or activity
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### New Business

#### New Members

- **Jesse** appointed Secretary and Alternate
- **Bill** confirmed as First Alternate
- Secretary role may include **hourly compensation + expenses**
- Need to:
  - Define expected monthly hours
  - Track budget impact
  - Update commission letterhead (currently no direct emails listed)

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## Administrative Notes

- Members must sign **annual ethics/conflict-of-interest forms**
  - Access/logistics issues noted (keys, building access, mail handling)
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## Mountain View Cemetery (Major Discussion)

### Current Situation

- Cemetery facing **serious funding shortfall**
- Estimated **\$15,000 per season** for mowing
- **~100 fallen/damaged gravestones**
- Only **~3 burial plots remaining**

### Community Efforts

- “Friends of Mountain View Cemetery” group formed
- ~\$3,000 raised so far
- ~189 members on Facebook
- Cleanup days scheduled (weather permitting)

### Challenges

- No sustainable funding model
- Cemetery board meets only **once per year**
- Maintenance costs high (especially mowing & trimming)
- Downed stones increase labor cost significantly

### Grants & Funding

- Some limited grants exist (e.g., veterans’ stones)
- Major gap: **no active grant-writing capacity**
- Town considering hiring a grant writer (slow process)

### Key Takeaways

- Fundraising may sustain **short-term**, not long-term
  - Cemetery may eventually:
    - Be declared **abandoned**, or
    - Become a **town responsibility**
  - State offers **limited one-time funding** if town takes over
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### **Finger Ground (Historic Site)**

- Discussion of possible **town acquisition**
  - Title search proposed but **on hold**
  - Need to determine:
    - Ownership status (currently unclear)
    - Ongoing maintenance cost to town
  - Existing historical research compiled (Peggy Mulligan)
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### **Historic Property Inquiry**

- Property owner interested in designation (Person House area)
  - Two possible paths:
    - **Local designation** → protects property
    - **National Register** → allows tax credits
  - Commission will assist with application process
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### **Training / External Meeting Report**

- Overview of Historic Preservation programs (SHPO)
- Key points:
  - Local designation = **actual protection**
  - National designation = **financial incentives (tax credits)**

- New grant opportunities emerging for:
    - Women's history
    - Underrepresented groups
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### **Additional Updates**

- Historic signage projects ongoing
  - Archival materials acquired (1840s–1860s ledger)
  - Church records (1834–1900) obtained for local history
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### **Key Issues Identified**

- Lack of **grant-writing resources**
  - Unclear **mail/payment handling process**
  - Long-term **cemetery sustainability crisis**
  - Need for clearer **roles and administrative procedures**
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### **Action Items**

- Define Secretary hours and compensation structure
  - Follow up on grant opportunities (cemetery + general)
  - Continue fundraising + cleanup efforts for cemetery
  - Revisit Finger Ground title search
  - Assist property owner with historic designation
  - Clarify process for handling bills and mail
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### **Adjournment**

- Motion made and seconded
- Meeting adjourned

