

Sibley County Historical Society
700 Main Street
Henderson, Minnesota
July 2026 Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 23, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

Attendance: Joy Cohrs, Diane Fredin, Becky Briggs, Verne Schlueter, Del Quast, Diana Kroells, Alice Strobel, Joe Strobel, Shirley Black Absent: None.

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by President Joy Cohrs at 5:30 pm.

Agenda: Approve/deny Agenda

President Joy Cohrs presented the agenda.

Minutes: Approve/deny June 2026 minutes:

Discussion on the What's It item for the Sibley County Fair listed in the minutes. After discussion it was agreed that the secretary's report is correct on the item we selected for the fair.

Motion to approve the Secretary minutes was made by Alice Strobel, second by Verne Schlueter. All in favor. Passed.

Treasurer Report: Approve/deny July 2026 Treasurer Report

Reports Prepared by Treasurer Diana Kroells and were presented by Diana. Reports were reviewed. Diana noted on the budget report – there was only enough room for a set number of columns, thus the January column was not shown on the report. After discussion, Diana will print the report in landscape mode vs portrait, allowing more columns to be displayed.

A motion was made by Shirley Black to accept the Treasurer's Report. Becky Briggs second the motion. All in favor. Passed.

Old Business

Royalty Tour on June 28th during Sauerkraut Days. Joy Cohrs opened the museum up in the morning for the Royalty who were in town for the parade. Due to the large amount of people, Joy had Jeff DuCharme come over to assist. The Royalty were very happy with their time in the museum.

Grant Update

President Joy Cohrs provided an update on the Grant. The gentleman from Gaylord who wrote the grant did do the resubmission of the grant. The grant was resubmitted by the deadline of July 10th.

Phone/internet Service Change Over

President Joy Cohrs provided us an update on the phone switchover. We are still on Frontier and will be until the new company is able to get their line in. Joy is waiting for a call from them to let us know when this will occur.

Highway Sign – Verne. Joy did investigate a Highway sign with MNDOT. Because we are located on Highway 19, MNDOT will not put up an informational sign. Discussion on other options – such as a sandwich board sign idea were reviewed. At this time, we will not be pursuing any other signage.

Matt McPherson – Guitar display. On August 6th, Matt McPherson will be visiting the museum. Joy and Jeff DuCharme will be meeting with him. He has been asking for a case as well as insurance on the guitar he would like to display in the museum. Joy has informed him that neither would be provided. Matt would still like to come and meet with Joy.

Sibley County observance of 250th Anniversary July 8th at 5:00 at the courthouse. Joy went to the program to represent SCHS. Del was also there. Joy reported that it was a good program and well attended.

New Business

Doll Display - Feedback.

Feedback from the Royalty tour was that the dolls were creepy. One little girl princess was crying because she was scared.

Discussion: Many of the dolls on display were put on display without going through the proper intake process. None have been accessioned. It is believed that there may be 50 dolls. The dolls are from the collection of Arlene Busse. After discussion, the last agenda item for tonight will be to go upstairs and look over the collection, followed by discussion on what to do with the dolls.

COLLECTION PRESENTATIONS:

Relay for Life Scrapbooks

Alice Strobel presented to the board, scrapbooks put together by the previous Sibley County Relay for Life Committee. The current Sibley County group – Sibley County Cancer Fighters – do not wish to keep the books. Eldrene has indicated that there is room for these scrapbooks.

Dave and Mary Ann Tesch – donations by daughter, Jenny

- 1.) Roller Skates (His and Hers) with case.
- 2.) Cookie Press

Donation of a Highchair/Stroller Combination.

Joy showed everyone a picture of this donation.

After discussion on the items. Diane Fredin made a motion to keep the Relay for Life Scrapbooks, The Roller Skates, and the Highchair/Stroller Combination unit. Becky Briggs seconded the motion. Passed. Since we already had a similar cookie press, it was decided to contact the family and tell them we did not want this item and ask them what they would like to do with it.

Fair Preparations

- Set up for the fair will be Monday, July 27th. Be at the building by 9:00 am.
- New Lock for the Building. Joy reviewed issues with the door locks in the SCHS building on the fairgrounds. The Fair Board will be looking into. It was discussed that maybe SCHS should donate door locks to the building.
- We reviewed the volunteer schedule, along with the open slots. Several were filled during the meeting, and Joy will make a couple of phone calls to other volunteers.

- We reviewed for the new board members what to expect, what to do, what is on display, what is expected of us, etc. as we volunteer at the fair.

Further Discussion on the Arlene Busse Doll collection.

Board members went upstairs to look at the doll collection. It was found that one doll was missing her head. It was found and put back on. After discussion. A motion was made by Becky Briggs to accept the collection and complete the accession process on every doll. Diane Fredin seconded the motion. Passed.

Joy will speak with the display committee and reinforce the requirement that only accessioned items may be used in displays. Joy will review with them the accession process that must be followed.

Adjourn –The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm. Alice Strobel made the motion to adjourn; Verne Schlueter seconded the motion. Passed.

Next Meeting is August 27th.

Respectfully Submitted

Shirley A. Black, Secretary