

Dunkirk Historical Museum

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2026

Present: Catherine, Victoria, Graham, Kay, Roger, Roy, Joe

Public Comments: Roy discussed the possibility of a 5/15/2026 event/program on the anniversary of the Lake Erie Railroad in Dunkirk. Additionally, Arthur W. Line did railroad models in Dunkirk, and we have his blueprints in the collection; this allows the possibility of a Model Railroad Month program later this year.

Secretary's Minutes: Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed and approved. Discussed transferring our credit card servicer to Square, which charges lower fees than our current servicer, Clover.

Director's Report:

- Philadelphia Insurance has been paid.
- Appeal, Membership, and donor letters have been prepared to be sent out.
- Exploring more funding possibilities for operating and endowment funds.
- Still wants to meet with city councillors.

President's Report:

- Christmas on Central turned out well with \$174 in sales, with an additional \$115 received from the 50/50 raffle.
- Certificates of appreciation were handed out to volunteers. Volunteer hours for the year totalled over 1,400 hours.
- Meetings will now be moved to 6pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

Curator's Report:

- The Holiday Open House was successful
- Starting in March, planning to have the museum open 11-2 every Saturday. A calendar will go out for all events and open hours; people are encouraged to sign up for a couple of hours each month.
- Fire and Military exhibits will be coming down, with a "Dunkirk Women" exhibit going up in March. This year's big exhibit will be "That 70s Exhibit", and December will feature a train display.
- The Provenance project has progressed to 1995.
- Planning to digitize the set piece from Dunkirk High School and then store it more safely.
- A donor from Michigan has been sending the museum Dunkirk-related items.

Railroad Report:

- 2025 Summary of Accomplishments at the fairgrounds was passed out to attendees.
- Upcoming work at the fairgrounds will be on the boxcar (new paint and vinyl graphics).
- Planning to enhance visitor experience downstairs in the Brooks exhibit, brainstorming is ongoing.
- “The Geared Locomotives of Dunkirk” book was discussed, and the display of a model train produced in Dunkirk between 1890 and 1894, “Gilbert Locomotive”, was discussed.

Old Business:

- The train whistle was installed downstairs and enjoyed by visitors.

New Business:

- Replacement of the pad by the side door to avoid puddles and ice build-up was discussed, as well as the addition of a railing along the building leading to the side door.