Medway Historical Society
Meeting Notes – July 2026

This meeting was almost entirely devoted to getting the Ide House ready to open to the public as the Medway Historical Museum.

The outside of the Ide House looks wonderful. The painting is done. The sign is up. The flowers are blooming.

Annmarie and Cher have been working on museum exhibits. They worked primarily on the parlor and brought some artifacts from the old museum to Ide. They have been brainstorming displays for spaces throughout the house. They are keeping military items to a minimum until Veteran's Day when we will do a display with items in chronological order by war. We plan to coordinate with what the town will be doing for Veteran's Day.

Most of the furniture is in place. Our Luther Metcalf cabinet needs to have its leg repaired are we are in search of someone to do that work.

The birthing room poses some challenges as a museum space because it is small, dark, and the floors are not level. So we are thinking of making it an art gallery. We could put motion-activated gallery lights in there to some of our nicer, large portraits. Our collection is sufficiently sizeable to rotate portraits and other paintings through the space regularly.

We will hang a television in the function room which will allow us to put images on a loop so visitors can come in here and watch them. We will also use the television to provide visual support for meetings and presentations.

We have many display cases to fill and are brainstorming ideas for using them. Made in Medway and a book display are top contenders right now.

Now that we are back in the Ide House and getting ready to reopen, we are also considering moving our Holbrook Bell from its current location in storage to somewhere on the property. Repairs on the yoke of the bell still need to be made before it can be properly displayed.

In the meantime, there is still interior painting to do, curtains to be hung, and air conditioning to be sorted. While much progress has been made, much remains to do.

We discussed the possibility of a grand opening, or a soft opening to take place the last weekend in September to coincide with the national We Want More History event taking place across the country as part of the 250th anniversary commemoration.

The cemetery walk we are planning will be October 18th with rain date of 25th.

Michelle Latham approached Sheila about donating a book that belonged to Emma Thayer, who received it as a Christmas gift in 1881 to the Society. We can add it to our collections.

We have several donations in memory of Cathy Perkins.