

Town of Richlands
Section House Advisory Board
Minutes of January 6, 2026

Attendance:

Lynna Mitchell, Rod Cury, Zadin Lawson, Brad Lawson, Sandra Culler, Donna Altizer, Eleanor Armes

I. Call to Order – Meeting convened at 5:15 pm

II. Motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2025 was made by Sandra and seconded by Zadin. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Official 2025 Lighting of Town Christmas Tree

A. Information

- Lynna thanked members for their time in cleaning, decorating, and preparing refreshments
- Attendance was estimated to be more than 200 people
- Town crew was instrumental in the event's success with their assistance with tree, lighting, etc. We will be thinking of a way to thank them - perhaps a pot luck luncheon.
- Lynna suggested we go to the Richlands Town Council to formally request that the Section House become the annual home of the official Christmas Tree Lighting event. She is willing to be spokesperson. Other members are asked to go with her to show support. Perhaps members of organizations that frequently use our facilities could join us as well.

IV. Greg is still researching public address systems to find one that will best meet our future needs at the Section House.

V. Mary was unable to be at today's meeting. She has been working on some ideas for a Section House Heritage Society. This will be tabled until the February meeting. Members are encouraged to bring in any ideas that might be pertinent.

VI. VA250

A. Committee members are trying to find a way to tie the Section House to VA250. Rod has been trying to contact Dennis Bigelow – a first-person interpreter for James Monroe – to speak.

B. Lynna will check with Tazewell County VA250 planning committee to see if the Section House can either coordinate with or provide additional support for future programs. Be thinking of some engaging children's activities to add to VA250 events.

C. Lynna also mentioned the grant money made available by VA250 for qualifying projects/programs throughout Virginia. Both our Thomas Jefferson first person interpreter program and Mount Vernon's Chief Curator Amanda Isaac's program met the guidelines for grant funding, but we have not received the promised grant monies.

D. Preplanning for the Fourth of July was raised. Again, children's activities were mentioned; an informal children and pets' parade, ice cream and/or watermelon were mentioned, but more are needed.

Old Business

I. The Edison Lights have been rehung. Despite the heavy winds, they were not damaged when they fell.

II. Charity Hurst has asked to use the Section House for the "Strollin' for the Colon" Road Race on March 21, 2026.

III. The hospital (Dr. Piriz) would like to host a beer making event at the Section House in the future.

Next meeting of the Section House will be February 12, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

