

Town of Richlands
Section House Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2026

Attendance: Lynna Mitchell (chair), Greg Horn, Rod Cury, Sandra Culler, Eleanor Armes, Brad Lawson, Zadin Lawson, Donna Altizer, Corey Whited, Mary Lawson, Don Marr

- I. Call to order
The meeting convened at 5:05pm.
- II. Minutes
The minutes of the 1/6/26 and 2/12/26 meetings were approved unanimously.
- III. Financial report
Lynna reported that our current balance with the town is \$5,715.87.
- IV. Town crew appreciation luncheon
Don Marr, interim town manager, offered his thanks to the board for providing the luncheon to the town crews for their participation in moving the house's contents to storage after the water damage incident. He remarked that town workers shared "lots of great comments" on the lunch.
- V. Update on house restoration
Marr also reported that the house water damage was a "catastrophic event", but that he is currently close to a settlement with the insurance company for repairs. The cost for total damages is currently estimated at \$112, 980 including the initial costs for drying the house. The deductible will be \$1,000, and although the settlement has yet to be finalized, Marr indicated that he thinks it will be within the coming week.

Rod suggested that once the restoration process begins some new electrical outlets, which have always been needed, should be installed within the house. It was also suggested that ventilation be added to the storage building and that the storage building door be replaced.
- VI. Exterior flowers
Rod asked Marr if the restoration contractors would be ok with our window boxes, as well as the flowers in the patio area. Marr said he thought this would be no problem and that we should plan to proceed. The board approved flowers unanimously.

VII. Future programming

The Dennis Bigalow (James Monoe interpreter) event had to be cancelled due to the house repairs; Rod remarked that we may reschedule him later.

Lynna asked everyone to keep thinking about activities for the 4th of July celebration, like watermelon, ice cream, sparklers, a pet parade, etc. We will also be considering a “Treasures of the Section House” event in the fall, possibly featuring various stations; Mary suggested this could be presented as a grand re-opening after repairs are completed.

As for next year’s Christmas tree lighting, Lynna suggested we could expand our scope, enlisting local businesses; she also suggested that we approach town council in advance to request that we host the event. Don Marr suggested that we could raise funds by having families sponsor clip-on lights for the tree. He also suggested we could put up different trees for representing various historical periods. Donna announced that the new indoor tree contributed by the Garden Club has arrived.

VIII. Section House Heritage Society

Mary suggested we consider pursuing both models—membership and friends—that Lynna distributed information about. Lynna asked everyone to think more about this project and offer their ideas at the next meeting.

IX. Public Art tour brochures

Lynna distributed brochures for the town’s Public Art Tour; she will save the rest to place in the house when it reopens.

X. Other business

Mary announced the SWCC Festival of the Arts, which will take place in April. Donna suggested we need to gather stories about the house for our upcoming events. Don Marr suggested we put up a Section House display in the town hall lobby for promotion.

Next Meeting Date—Monday, 4/20/26 at 5:00pm in the Town Hall conference room

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

Minutes prepared by Greg Horn
March 24, 2026