



**Monthly Meeting**  
**January 27th, 2025**

***Amanda Wiseman: Call to Order***

***Stephen Feely: Prayer***

***December 2024 Meeting Minutes to be presented at Feb 24th meeting as Secretary absent due to illness***

***Rayvin Messenger: Treasurer's report***

***Operating Expenses \$1,640.07; Special Projects (Log Cabin) \$1,412.10***

***Log Cabin: Members voted to transfer funds specifically donated towards the Log Cabin to the Cowan Railroad Museum for ownership and completion of its renovation. Jarod Pearson President of the RR Museum to communicate with the RR Museum Board to obtain authorization and proceed with acquisition of the Log Cabin as an asset to the museum. Museum Board to meet next month February 2025.***

***New CCCC Members in January 2025***

- Trip Rigsby: Rigsby Construction***
- Lilly Marquez: Lending with Lilly***
- Melinda Stewart: Farmers Insurance***
- Dr. Bryan Elkins: Dentistry***
- Janie Stewart: Legal Hometown Herbs***

***Review of Scheduled Area Events: Involving the Monterey Station, Church affiliations, RR Museum and Sewanee***

***Feb 14th Valentines Day Cowan Business's Cookie Walk and Open House***

***Cowan Liaisons for Community Connection Updates***

- Melinda Drake: Winchester***
- Lilly Marquez: Cowan Schools: Elementary, South Middle and Sewanee***
- Cara Kitzrow: Cowan Center of the Arts***
- Rachel Thompson: Franklin House***
- Jarod: Ministerial Committee and RR Museum***

**\*\* Updates to be sent via email: [cowancommercialclub@gmail.com](mailto:cowancommercialclub@gmail.com)**

**RR Museum: Park Clean up seeking support of 7-12 persons. Tentative Date of April 26th.  
Museum opens May 1st.**

**Tennessee Backroads Heritage Spring Banquet: Date TBD. Regional Event, representing 9  
counties. Large Tourism Networking Event. Location: Bell Buckle.**

**Mountain Goat Trail Alliance: Executive Director Patrick Dean; Tentative Guest Speaker March  
24th CCCC Meeting.**

**Next Meeting: Feb 24th Topics to be discussed:**

**Increasing awareness and interest of local residents and businesses in participating in the  
future of Cowan. Encouraging guest attendance and participation.**

**\*\*\*\*Ideas for Community Fundraisers to support Cowans Revival and Reset\*\*\*\***

**Minutes took by:**

**Rayvin Messenger**

**in absence of Chrissy Simoneaux**

Whereas Cowan Railroad Park represents a long-standing partnership with several participants and stakeholders, namely:

- Cowan Railroad Museum, which maintains and pays for a leasehold with CSX Railroad for most of the park area, including the property where the Cowan Depot is located and where the log cabin replica of Franklin County's First Courthouse is located.
- The City of Cowan, which takes care of the grass cutting and covers the cost of most of the utilities in the park area.
- The Fall Heritage Festival Committee, which hosts one of Franklin County's largest public events in the railroad park area and raises vital funds that benefit Cowan Railroad Museum and the park area itself.
- Cowan Commercial Club, which has maintained the log cabin replica of Franklin County's First Court House and coordinated the Work Day in the Park event since the Year 1999;
- Various families, businesses and individuals who have contributed time and resources to keep the park in a state of good repair and have hosted other events, including Flag Day and Dr. Couser Day, for several years; and,

Whereas the log cabin replica of Franklin County's First Court House, although maintained by Cowan Commercial Club, and supported with financial gifts from individuals and from the City of Cowan, does not have an official record of ownership; and,

Whereas by lacking an official record of ownership, it has been a struggle to raise funds to make critical repairs to the log cabin, and it has been a challenge to write grants that will benefit the log cabin; and,

Thanks to a 15-year effort by members of the Cowan Commercial Club and with help from the City of Cowan, work is under way in the Year 2025 to put the log cabin in a state of repair; however, the log cabin will inevitably need to be rebuilt within the next 10 years due to age and condition of the current structure, then

Be it resolved that the Cowan Commercial Club, meeting on February 24, 2025, will propose to the Board of Directors of Cowan Railroad Museum, to "receive" the log cabin replica of Franklin County's First Court House, as a Cowan Railroad Museum asset for reasons that include:

- The log cabin is already located on land that is part of the Cowan Railroad Museum lease.
- The log cabin can benefit from the direct oversight of an organization already charged with historic preservation.
- The log cabin will benefit from being part of an active 501 c 3 non-profit corporation, which will simplify grant writing and fund-raising efforts that will benefit the cabin.

- The log cabin, representing the former homeplace of Major William Russell, is indirectly associated with Cowan's rich railroad history; and

Be it further resolved that Cowan Commercial Club intends to complete the current state of repair project on the log cabin with funds already raised prior to the pending reception by Cowan Railroad Museum; and,

Be it further resolved that Cowan Commercial Club will transfer any unspent funds on the log cabin repair project to Cowan Railroad Museum with the suggestion that a separate fund be maintained by the museum corporation to benefit the log cabin.

Submitted by Members of Cowan Commercial Club, Inc.