

July, 25<sup>th</sup> 2025

Cowan Commercial Club meeting:

Amanda Wiseman called the meeting to order.

There were 7 members present.

Minutes were accepted from the last meeting with a motion to accept from Jarod Pearson and Stephen Feeley 2nd.

Rayvin Messenger presented the treasurer's report. It was accepted with discussion of the donation to the Sewanee music festival overage in the amount of \$48.43 deposited to the general operating fund.

Operating Fund \$1,697.55

Special Fund \$112.60

Old Business:

1. Fans - Discussion of payments and the need to send logo's to Melinda Drake at her email address of [mdrake2@farmersagent.com](mailto:mdrake2@farmersagent.com).
  
2. Welcome Brochures – Jarod Pearson went to Daniel the Printer and they found the file. Discussion was made to several points for the brochure:
  - a. Protocol for the updates to the brochure. Update bi-annually. Initial update deadline set for September 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will allow for an October, 1<sup>st</sup> update and print. Subsequent date for 6 months will be March, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.
  - b. Railroad Museum will contribute their budgeted funds to help with print cost.
  - c. Physical brochures are to be updated every 6 months to add or remove any necessary businesses.
  - d. Website to be updated monthly.
  - e. Add email information on “how to” join Cowan Commercial Club to the brochure.

Call to Action for Welcome Brochures/Memberships:

Lilly Marquez to scan brochure and email to Amanda Wiseman.

Jarod Pearson to head the changes to the brochure and update the membership form. Also to check on the address list (with Cowan Utilities) to send out brochures.

Amanda Wiseman to contact City Hall to inquire about adding brochure to water bills every 6 months. Send email to members with a list of businesses and contact information, with weekly goals.

Stephen Feeley to check on pricing to do inserts in the Sewanee Messenger.

Rayvin Messenger to let Jarod Pearson know when members have paid/not paid so he can add/remove listings.

All members to promote and go out to the businesses to get 2026 memberships. Go to 5 businesses before the deadline and try to get dues. Let them know the updates to the brochure, website and upcoming promotions to their businesses.

3. Flag Day 2026 – Jarod Pearson to begin looking into grant funding for 2026. A goal was set to promote the drop offs of unserviceable flags 60 days prior to 2026 event (which will be on June, 14<sup>th</sup>) and invite local representatives.
4. School Supplies – Melinda Drake to take school supplies to her Agency to distribute during the county wide school event on the Winchester square. Any left-over supplies will be dropped off at Cowan Elementary.
5. Grants – Committee was formed to consist of Melinda Drake, Jarod Pearson and Lilly Marquez. The purpose of this committee is for Melinda Drake and Lilly Marquez to learn how to write Grants along with Jarod Pearson and to begin brainstorming and applying to any funding available to further our cause in the community. It was discussed that there are other valuable resources and people we can learn from and collaborate with to accomplish this. i.e. Margie, Kara and the grant writer for the Mountain Goat Trail.
6. 501C3 Status – Discussion was to start a committee to work on the 501C3 with Jarod Pearson to email Amanda Wiseman the IRS file. Amanda Wiseman to review IRS file and determine the pros and cons of either renewing the existing 501C3 or creating a new one. The actual committee formation was tabled to allow time.

7. Polly Hughes – Jarod Pearson mentioned that donations are coming in, in lieu of flowers from Polly Hughes passing. Discussion was to have the information updated to send all donations to P.O. Box 585 Cowan, TN 37318. Donations to be deposited to the Special Fund and earmarked for a “Polly Hughes Memorial” and beautification projects.
8. Tennessee Backroads to come to Cowan on September, 12<sup>th</sup>. To do an article for newspaper.
9. Punishers Event – Discussion to do a basket for the silent auction. All items will be brought to the August meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: Amanda Wiseman made the motion, Stephen Feeley 2<sup>nd</sup>.