



Town of Bridgewater

Finance Committee

March 24, 2025

7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

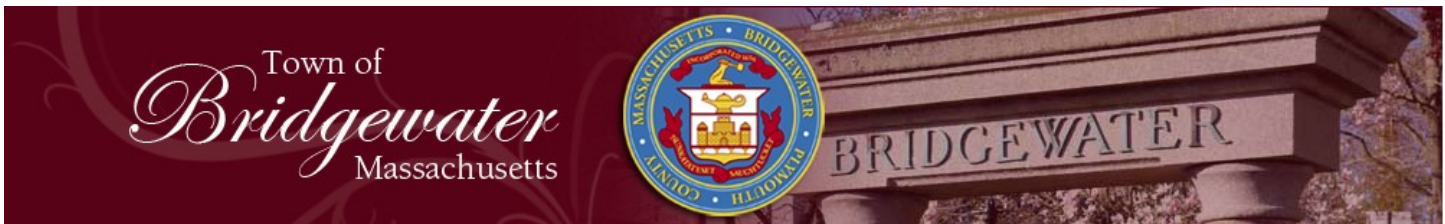
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88006569375>

Meeting ID: 880 0656 937

MEETING AGENDA

Disclosure: Pursuant to Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2020, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, and the March 31, 2025, extension granted by Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting for the Town of Bridgewater will be fully remote and accessible to the public through remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance is permitted. Citizens who wish to tune in to the meeting may do so via Zoom.

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a) March 10, 2025
- C. Public Comment**
- D. Old Business**
 - a) Order O-FY25-042: Transfer Order - CPC Purchase and Restoration of Samuel Edson's Coroners Book
- E. New Business**
- F. Additional Items for Discussion**
- G. Adjournment of Meeting**



Town of Bridgewater **Finance Committee**

MEETING MINUTES

A. Call to Order

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a) February 18, 2025

Derek Bennett motioned to approve the February 18th, 2025 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Public Comment

D. Old Business

E. New Business

a) Order O-FY25-042: Transfer Order - CPC Purchase and Restoration of Samuel Edson's Coroners Book

This order will be voted at the next FinCom meeting.

b) Order O-FY25-043: CPC Additional Funds - Restoration of Parthenon Frieze

Rigobert Noel motioned to recommend O-FY25-043 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

c) Order O-FY25-045: Acceptance of Donation - Discovery Channel's Expedition X Circle the Globe Production

Rigobert Noel motioned to approved O-FY25-045 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

d) Order O-FY25-047: Transfer Order for Town Manager's Office

Derek Bennet motioned to recommend O-FY25-047 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

F. Additional Items for Discussion

G. Adjournment of Meeting



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Blythe Robinson, Acting Town Manager
Date Introduced: 2/18/2025
First Reading: 2/18/2025
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-042: Transfer Order - CPC Purchase and Restoration of Samuel Edson's Coroners Book

ORDERED, in accordance with section 6-4 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, vote to appropriate \$13,000 from Historic Preservation Reserve (Account Number 32400) for this Project.

Explanation:

See CPC Recommendations

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•
•	•
•	•

Attachments:

1. Edson Book Preservation
2. Edson Book significance request_
3. Recommendation - Edson Book

Bridgewater Historical Commission
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

December 17, 2024

Community Preservation Commission
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Re: "The Samuel Edson Lawbook"

I have reviewed the notes submitted to the Historical Commission concerning the preservation and digitization of portions of the "Samuel Edson Lawbook". It is rare when such a significant book comes to light and we are given the chance to bring it home. His personal notations concerning the forensic investigations into the passing of native Americans provide us with a link to the early life of colonial Bridgewater.

The fact that we can get those personal notations digitized doubles the significance of this opportunity. It will not just be a delicate "museum piece" sitting on the shelf or in a locked case. The digitization will enable all to closely examine the writings for future interpretation of the early lives in the colony. Hopefully, it will stimulate interest in the little-known lives of the native peoples following the social turmoil suffered by the native population prior to the American Revolution.

Hopefully, the digitization will also be available to the local university through the Bridgewater Public Library archives facilitating more research on the subject and further broadening our knowledge of early Bridgewater history. With this in mind, the Bridgewater Historical Commission strongly supports the efforts of the use of CPC funding to acquire and preserve this very significant but little-known segment of Bridgewater's history.

Sincerely

David R. Moore
Chairman
Bridgewater Historical Commission



Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts
Community Preservation Committee

Nov. 18, 2024

Bridgewater Historical Commission
David Moore, Chair
66 Central Sq.
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Subject: Declaration of historic significance in Bridgewater for a circa 1745 Samuel Edson Book

Greetings David,

The CPC is in possession of Samuel Edson's 1735 law book. The book is currently undergoing evaluation for preservation/restoration at NEDCC. We anticipate receiving restoration cost estimates in the next couple of weeks. The book does not appear to be an "official Town record" but records the work of a citizen. The book includes a copy of the "*Acts and Laws of His Majesties Province of the Massachusetts-Bay New England*" (1726 printing; digital copies are available online) and handwritten information of Edson's 18th century work as coroner in Bridgewater. Samuel Edson was born in Bridgewater on 14 January 1690 and died 27 December 1771 also in Bridgewater. He donated the land for Trinity Church and is interred in its 1763 cemetery on Main St. north of the High and Center St. intersection.

As explained below, the CPC needs the Historical Commission's determination of the book's historical significance in Bridgewater to ensure its eligibility for preservation/restoration with CPA funds. Unfortunately, we do not have the history of its ownership over time, just the book itself and the author's connection to Bridgewater. The names of 18th century Bridgewater inhabitants are included in the book and Samuel's birth and death in Bridgewater verify his Bridgewater connection. To assist the Commission's deliberations, I have attached images of selected book pages.

Background: An October 31, 2008, DOR letter responded to the following request from the City of Waltham, "*You asked whether monies in the Waltham Community Preservation Fund may be expended for purposes of record retention. You indicated that you intend to have document scanning work performed with respect to vital records, records of City Council matters, and other filings in the Clerk's Office. You inquire as to "what age the record needs to be to qualify under the Community Preservation requirements."*

The DOR letter clarifies eligibility for CPA funds to restore documents and digitize records subject to the State's legal retention law as follows "*To be eligible for community preservation expenditures, the records in question must have been "determined by the local historic preservation commission to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture, or culture" of Waltham. G.L. c. 44B, §2.*" Digitization is not considered historic preservation but may be incidental to it.

The key point from DOR's letter makes it clear that CPA funds can be used to restore and preserve documents such as this 1735 Edson Book **if it is declared significant in the history and culture of Bridgewater**. We believe the records written in the book, which record a coroner's investigative activities including the death of three Indigenous people are significant in Bridgewater, hence our request.

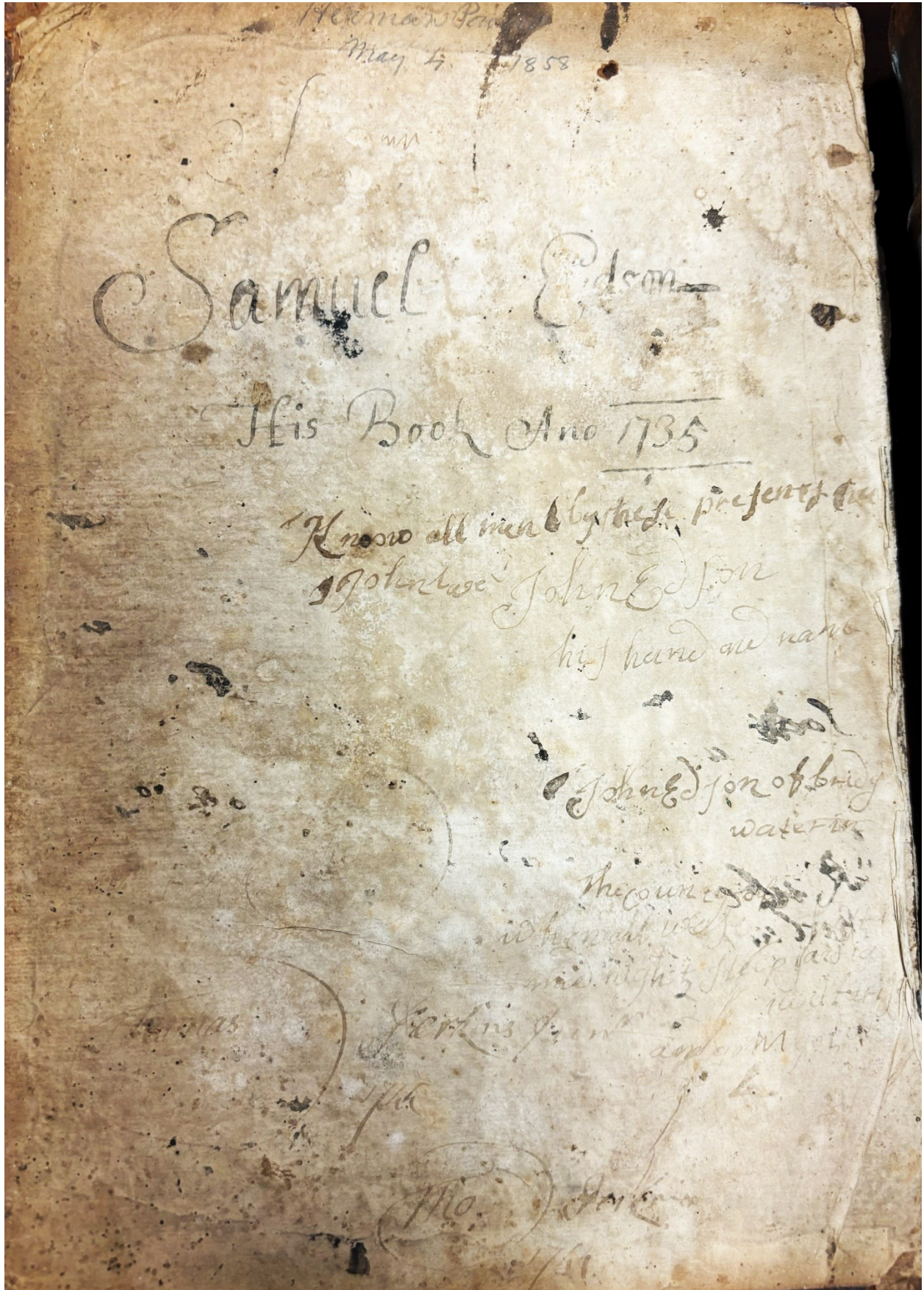
There is limited information regarding the book's history from the individual who mailed the book to the CPC at our request. Unfortunately, his information source passed away before he could complete research on the book's provenance.

Sincerely,

Carlton D. Hunt, Ph.D.
Vice Chair
Bridgewater CPC

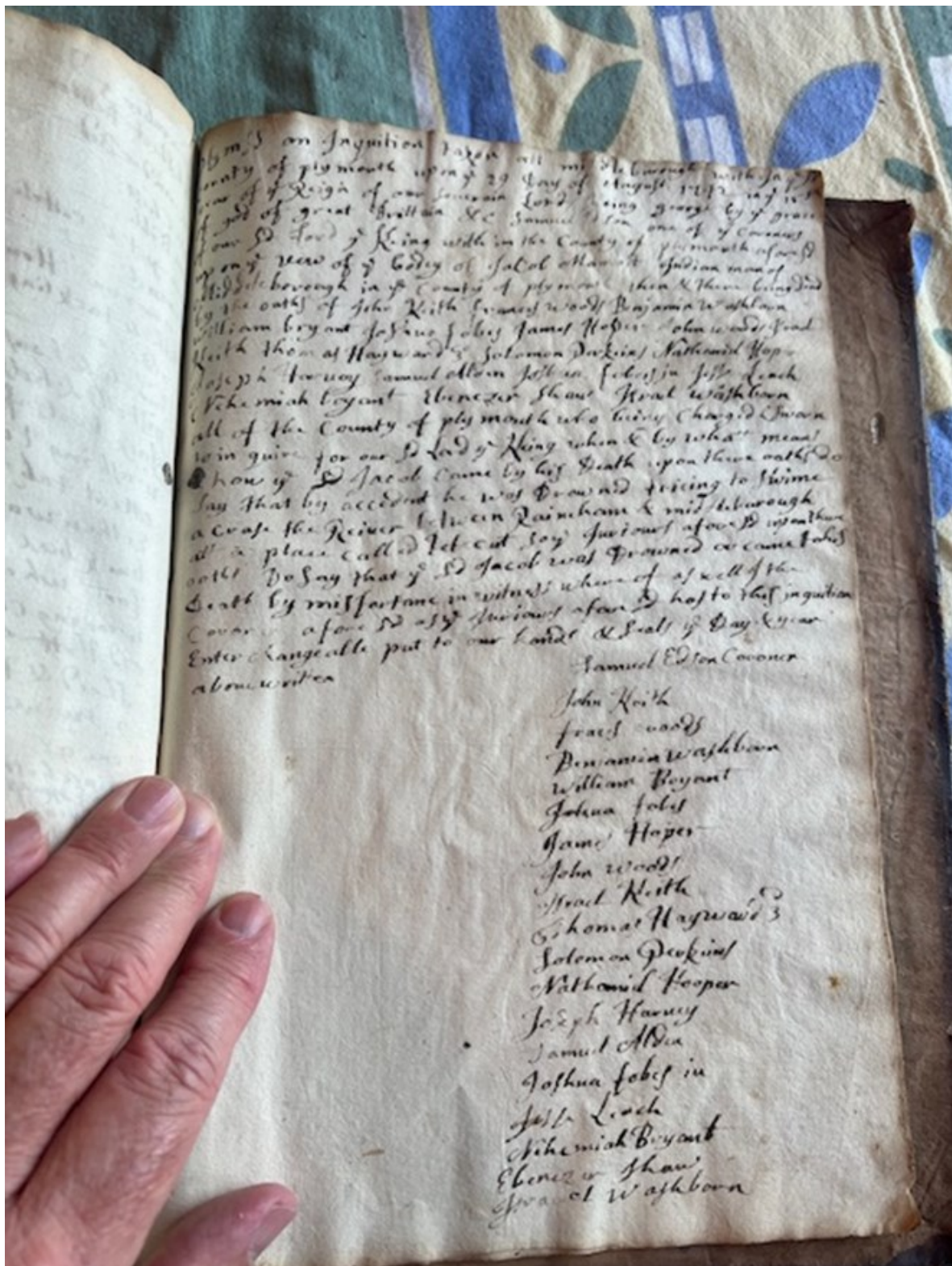


Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts
Community Preservation Committee





Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts
Community Preservation Committee



John's on Inquisition taken on the 29th day of August 1782 with
County of Plymouth upon the 29th day of August 1782 with
one of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord being George by the grace
of God of Great Britain &c Samuel Edson one of the Justices
of our said Lord's King with in the County of Plymouth of and
upon the view of the body of Jacob Ashmun Indian man of
Middleborough in the County of Plymouth then & there being
by the oath of John Keith Francis Wood Benjamin Washburn
William Boyant John John James Hoper John Woodford
Keith Thomas Hayward Solomon Perkins Nathaniel Hooper
Joseph Harvey Samuel Alden John John John Leach
Nehemiah Boyant Ebenezer Shaw Neal Washburn
all of the County of Plymouth who being charged & sworn
to inquire for our said Lord's King when & by what means
John Jacob came by his death upon their oath do
say that by accident he was drowned & falling to swim
across the River between Rainham & Middleborough
at a place called Red cut say further that upon their
oath do say that John Jacob was drowned or came to his
death by misfortune in virtue whereof as well of the
County of Plymouth as further as I have to that inquisition
Enter changeable put to our Lord & Seal of Day & Year
above written

Samuel Edson Coover
John Keith
Francis Wood
Benjamin Washburn
William Boyant
John John
James Hoper
John Wood
Nathaniel Keith
Thomas Hayward
Solomon Perkins
Nathaniel Hooper
Joseph Harvey
Samuel Alden
John John
Nehemiah Boyant
Ebenezer Shaw
Neal Washburn



Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts
Community Preservation Committee

...month upon the 23rd day of October in the fourteenth year
of our Sovereign Lord George the Second by the grace of
God King with in the County of Plymouth upon the
body of Nathaniel Bacon or Child near five months
and died by the oath of Eleazar Carver Solomon Pratt
Joseph Pratt and John Alden
Nathan Hayward
Joshua Wright in John Alden
Benjamin Price Seth Cary Benjamin
Mahwin Nathaniel Hayward Ruben Hall Robert Wilbur
good and Lawfull men of Bridgewater in the County of
Plymouth being charged and sworn to Enquire for our Lord the King
and by what means the said Nathaniel came by his Death
on there oaths do say that by Sudden Death he came to his
End so the Jurors on there oaths do say that in manner abovesaid
said Nathaniel came to his Death justly and lawfully and
before said as the Jurors upon their oaths interchangeably do to
these Hands and Seals
Samuel Edson Coroner
Eleazar Carver
Solomon Pratt
Joseph Pratt
John Alden
Nathan Hayward
Joshua Wright
John Alden
Benjamin Price
Seth Cary
Benjamin Mahwin
Nathan Hayward
Ruben Hall
Robert Wilbur



Town of Bridgewater, MA

Community Preservation Committee

66 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324

February 4, 2025

Ms. Blythe Robinson, Acting Town Manager
Town of Bridgewater
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Re: Purchase and Restoration of Samuel Edson's Coroners Book

Dear Ms. Robinson:

In response to your application for the purchase and restoration of the Samuel Edson Coroner's Book, dated January 16, 2025, the following motion was made by Carlton Hunt and duly seconded by Maureen Minnasian at the CPC's January 22nd meeting. The motion passed with 6 yeas and 0 nays.

To recommend the funding of the purchase and restoration and preservation of the subject book from Samuel Edson, his coroner's book, in the amount of \$13,000 to be taken from account 324200, Historic Preservation Reserve.

Please see that this information is placed on the Town Council agenda for their next meeting and that the attached application and related documents are forwarded to the Council members as backup to the order.

I would appreciate if you would let me know when the Council acts on the order so we can prepare the award letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Gina Guasconi".

Gina Guasconi, Chair
Community Preservation Committee

cc: Josh McGraw
Laurie Guerrini
Kevin Perry
Debra Ward
Carlton Hunt