

Depot Report for September 2025

Due to a calculation error we need to remake half of the new pad in order for the Avista transformer to fit. This will be accomplished during the week of Sept 15th. Then Avista can install the transformer and connect power. Electrical Contractors NW can extend power to the basement and begin work to move connections from old panels to the new ones in the basement.

Three WSU students helped depot volunteers clear the basement of debris on 9/11 as part of the university's Community Civic Engagement program. We still need to hire movers to clear and dump more "stuff" accumulated many years ago to allow future work to proceed.

The Restoration Committee met with Pullman's Economic Development Director Sean Miller to seek his help in developing a business plan for the future – one that will provide the needed yearly income (around \$40,000) to support ongoing operational expenses. After much work, Sean sent us three potential plans to consider. The committee will meet to discuss these.

Ken Casavant and Debbie Sherman met with officials from the Port of Whitman after which the port announced they would grant the depot a sum of \$35,000 to support train car restoration. Work continues on that project. So far donors have generously supported the purchase and installation of 19 windows at \$1000 each. Our total donations including cash and grants has reached over \$170,000.

The Grant Committee is working to submit a new T-Mobile Hometown Grant and, with the help of Val, complete requested forms from USDA related to the Rural Communities Grant which we made application earlier and apparently is still being considered. Results of our application for an Avista Grant will be known in early October.

Director Report

Got the felt boards and photos for Krista and Alex for the fair.

Alex and I found a variety of locations to move the Archives to. With less than 17 days to move it was difficult. Set up special board meetings, signed the new location contract and worked with the insurance company to get the location covered. Will send the certification as soon as the insurance company sends it to me. The Church was very helpful in giving me the entire square footage of the building, how much space we are using (a little over 1200 sq feet) and the year the church was built.

I created rack cards and sent out a fundraising mailing to try to raise funds for the Perkins House project. So far \$87,000 has been raised. The Perkins House project is in full swing. Between Nancy and I we check in on the painters and contractors every other day. The house looks really good. I spoke with Eric Stoltz (son of Catherine Perkins Stoltz). He is going to send the fundraising information to all of the Perkins descendants for me. He thinks they may be interested in giving and setting up an endowment to be used for operations and upkeep of the property.

Helped Kathy with the newsletter. Found numbers and contact information for her. Sent her information about the move and about the Perkins house fundraiser with photos of the progress.

Signed the Port of Whitman agreement for the depot gift.

Working with Kathleen and Linda on setting up a phone call with the USDA group for the grant.