

Tennessee Historical Commission Special Meeting Minutes April 2, 2026

Call to Order

The Tennessee Historical Commission meeting opened at 8:30 am Central Standard Time.

Appointed Members present: Victor Ashe, Sam Elliott, Beth Campbell, Jim Kay, Loni Harris, Doris McMillian, Reggie Mudd, Dan Pomeroy, Ben Silverman, Tyler Sloan, Tim Smith, Ray Smith, and Susan Williams.

Ex-Officio members present: TDEC Representative, Hobart Akin; State Archaeologist, Phil Hodge; State Librarian and Archivist, Jamie Ritter; Gov. Lee's Representative, Tyler Sloan; and State Historian, Dr. Carroll Van West.

Tennessee Historical Commission Staff Members Present: Miranda Montgomery, State Historic Preservation Officer and Interim Executive Director; State Historic Sites Program Coordinator, Bobby Cooley; State Historic Sites Program Coordinator, David Britton; Barbara Grissom, Administrative Secretary; and Caty Dirksen, Outreach Coordinator

Public Comment

No public comments.

Discussion of HPLAF for Castalian Springs Mound Project

Chairman Elliott opened the meeting by apologizing to the Committee for the short notice. He explained that Mrs. Montgomery had received a communication from the budget office requesting an update on the status of certain THC funds, including the HPLAF funds under discussion. Mrs. Montgomery clarified that the budget office specifically asked about the amount of unobligated funds in the HPLAF account. She explained that "obligated" funds refer to those that have been formally committed through administrative action in the system. In response, staff worked quickly with multiple state agencies to issue an RFP in record time, ensuring that an obligation could be recorded. She noted that while the Commission is formally approving the project at this meeting, the administrative obligation has already been entered. The financial statement for the account has also been updated and submitted to the budget office.

Following discussion, Mrs. Montgomery introduced Bobby Cooley and David Britton, who prepared the scope and project description for the Castalian Springs Mounds Project, previously distributed in the meeting materials.

Mr. Cooley then presented an overview of the site identification project, which is intended to lay the groundwork for opening the site to the public. He explained that the majority of the work will

involve installing fencing around the entire site, clearing trees, and adding signage to identify and interpret the area. Estimated project costs range from approximately \$1.2 million to \$2 million.

Motion

Beth Campbell made a motion to have \$2,000,000 allocated to the Castalian Springs Mound Project. Susan Williams seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Yeas: Ashe, Campbell, Kay, Elliott, Harris, McMillan, Pomeroy, R. Smith, T. Smith, Silverman, and Williams. Abstain: Mudd. Motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 AM.

Submitted by:

Sam D. Elliott, Chairman

Miranda Montgomery, Interim Executive Director