

Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA

March 2018

Controversy on the Common

The March 12th Selectman's meeting created a conversation when a vote was made to halt large events on the Common due mostly to safety concerns and interference with the construction of the new School. The You Tube video taken by Templeton TV was shared on our Facebook group and the comments of our townspeople soon erupted. The Mac & Cheese was first on the chopping block with the Craft Fair next on the list. With over 300 comments and the Selectmen's ear close by, the subject was soon introduced for further debate at the March 26th meeting. The realization that this decision will affect the Historical Society, The Lion's Club, Halloween, and any other "Large" event made an impact they didn't see coming. With some changes, it appears that we will all enjoy the Common as we have in the past but under the watchful eye of the town offices, police, CERT, and our members.



The old post office and barn next to The Couillard home as it was years ago.



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Group Page

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Templeton Museum
(*Narr Hist Society*)



****Officers and Directors****

We are truly growing, events are planned, projects in the works, and investments in the future are in place. The strain of each is weighing on our Board of Governors and with elections coming in May, we need a few good people to stand with us.

Directors willing to help during our events, organizing them, and putting all the pieces together are needed. We have a few vacancies and they should be filled. Nominate or volunteer for our committee to review and select. If you volunteer, you should bring to the table ideas and plans to implement them. **Your name will not be placed on the Directors position just to fill the blank.** Ideas are great and appreciated, but plans are also needed to make less work for those already burdened with the current tasks.

Secretary: We have a great recording secretary who takes minutes better than any I've seen. We need a second if you will, to help with filing, Facebook, email, newsletters, and work closely with the President on many aspects of the position.

Vice President: We may not find one this season, but this position should go to an active volunteer already in a position who stands out from the rest, works on many projects, and shows leadership during our events. I know you are out there, it's just taking the next step. Who wouldn't want to be involved with such a dynamic organization leading the Society in a great community like ours.

Your commitment is validated when you see so many thankful townspeople enjoying our Museum, our community events, and our display of history of the four precincts.

Gift DONATIONS

The Society is proposing anyone interested in donating items to the Society in the future consider having it in Archival Condition. This will better preserve the item for future years

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

YES! I would like to make a donation to the
Narragansett Historical Society
I/We have enclosed a check in the amount of \$_____.

Name_____

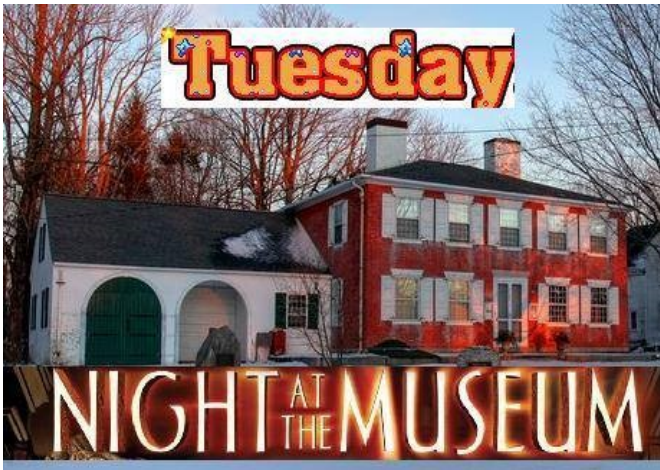
Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Thank You

Narragansett Historical Society and send to
PO Box 354, Templeton, MA 01468.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.



The most successful change we made was to open every Tuesday night from 6-8 pm. Beginning on April 3rd for the 2018 season. Dozens of people fill the rooms each Tuesday night for donation drop offs, research, visits, and members preparing for displays and events. A time to decorate, clean, and re-organize, this evening time has been our most productive. If we have the interest and support, let's try to add a Wednesday night as well.

4 years ago, we decided to open the building to free tours, self guided with members hosting an area to answer question from curious visitors. This has proven to be a great decision, it allows anyone to come inside, look around, and discover all of our treasures on display. Once inside, we have found that many are so amazed that they quickly sign up for membership to show their support and several have become Directors and Officers taking the lead in keeping the Society on track. Ideas are shared and changes are implemented giving those a sense of pride knowing they helped or were a small part of something good. Stop by to become familiar with the place and volunteer to be a room monitor. It's easy!



Tea in the Garden is our longest standing tradition dating back to 1934, many of those who served tea as a child are now hosting a tea of their own with their children and grandchildren. The kids love the responsibility of serving our guests and they learn the feeling of accomplishment. Teas can be the traditional Saturday afternoon in the garden with a few treats, a couple choices of drink, but most of all, a time to relax and share a conversation with a friend, neighbor, or someone new to town who is there for the first time. If you like the flair of a Themed Tea, then pick an idea, dress to the era, add a few decorations and start a new tradition. Have a birthday party with us or create a private event.

Thank you * Sponsorship * Thank you

Gold Sponsors 2018



Silver Sponsor 2018

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION



Platinum	\$5,000.00
Gold	\$1,000.00
Silver	\$750.00
Bronze	\$500.00
Event	\$250.00

Bronze Sponsors 2018



Event Sponsor



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Schedule 2018

April 3. starts *Tuesday night at the Museum* 6-8pm continues all year

May 5. Begins our Saturday from 1-5 open hours. Sign up now.

June 23. First Tea in the Garden, details to follow

June 23 & 24 Yankee Engine-uity show with CMSGMA in orange

July 4. Reading of the Declaration at the First Church

July 14th Mac & Cheese “Templeton Elders” on the common

Aug 5. Go Fly A Kite day at Baptist Common Brooks field

Aug 18-19. Craft Fair on the Common. We open both days. Help needed

Sept 22. MOTORPALOOZA 2018 on the common noon to 5

Our next meeting should button down these dates and more.

Lend a hand when you can.





“A moment in time”

by: **Harry Aldrich Jr. *Historian***

ENJOYING THE 4th OF JULY ON THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Back when I was growing up, my dad was a member of the fire department and every year on the night before the 4th of July, some of the fire fighters would stand by the fire alarm box on the pole in the center of town and at the station which was on Wellington Rd at the time. This was curbing the kids from turning in false alarms which was a favorite thing to do on that night. Usually it didn't do much good because as soon as they went home for the night, the alarm would get sounded and they had to respond anyway.

In 1966, after I got discharged from the service, I became a member of the department. Around that time, many of the older members were getting off and there were quite a few younger men on, and the department changed from having Chief Engineers to having one fire chief and each station had a deputy chief. They also came up with the idea of paying the men for one hour to stand by the station on the night before the 4th. For this, the men agreed to man the stations until midnight and respond to any bon fires or false alarms for that amount of pay. The men would put their pay together and make it a night to enjoy. They would purchase clams and steaks and make it a cook out. Each station did this and everyone had a good time. The police officers that were on duty would stop in and partake also.

This was a great thing but as years went on it started getting a little wild. One of the men showed up with a small canon some black powder and the fun started. We would load the canon with toilet paper and fire it in front of the station about a half dozen times or more. The vibration from it would set off the alarm at the Templeton Lunch each time we fired it. The canon was a miniature Civil War canon on wheels. People would stop by and wait for the canon to be fired. Later one of the men whose family owned a shop that worked with metal made his own canon and when he got ready to fire it, he realized that he had forgotten to make a ram to pack the powder in with. It just happened that the local Lions Club was selling brooms and he had gotten one for his wife and it was still in his truck. Well he loaded the canon and pushed the broom handle down into the bore of the canon which went a little hard. In fact it was stuck in the canon and would not come out. The only alternative was to shoot it out. He lit the fuse and we all stood back. The canon went off with a great report and the broom was nowhere to be found.

Eventually cook outs and canons faded out and they stopped manning the stations. The fire department did away with the fire alarms and equipped each firefighter alert's, a device that lets them know when they are needed. If you listen on the 4th you might still hear one of these canons going off. At least one of them is still around.



President's Page



by: Brian P. Tanguay

Do you think we are done with those snow storms yet? You may want to keep that shovel handy just in case. As New Englanders we can handle just about anything we are dealt. The last few years have been a great testament to our strength. The coming years we will discover just how strong we are. Will we find funding to get the Grange hall ready? We certainly have the man/woman power to complete the tasks at hand. Our Document room/ Hadley Room in the Grange is taking shape, with electrical upgrades ready to go, insulation estimated and ready to spray, sheet rock soon to be delivered and a heating and cooling system quoted and waiting for our OK to order. All the pieces are set to complete so this project will soon be on the books and we can start building shelves and bringing in the filing cabinets.

In order to move the items into the document room, we will need to catalog, box, and label everything and get it on the computer so we can have a searchable database to make it simple to find documents and photographs, along with saving our researchers valuable time. Chair City Oil has donated another \$1,000.00 to help us get things done. They are so impressed with our efforts and successes they just had to chip in. In my conversation with David Tourigny, he asked what we need, I suggested we use the money to buy a computer for the document room along with materials needed to finish the job. He quickly donated his computer to us since it is being replaced with a faster model. My son Seth donated a flat screen monitor to go with the system, and we have a scanner/ printer already, so that will give us a big head start in having a searchable system in our control. A Bourn Hadley desk was donated and will be used as an office desk for the computer and for research in the document/ Hadley room.

The electrician will install all cables, phone lines, electricity, and lights in that room for future use, a phone can be set up there to communicate between the two buildings if both are open. We currently do not have plans for an internet connection at this time due to the high cost.

So you can see our directors and officers have been busy this winter to prepare for the 2018 season which will begin in April when we turn the water back on and have our Tuesday nights at the Museum again.

What else is in the works? Well, we want to move the Tin shop wagon out of the second floor and into the carriage shed along with the fire hose reel which is on the first floor. The reason is, with the new doors, the opening is too small to move them, so let's do it now.

For painters, we have more shutters that need attention, and the back porch needs to be scraped and painted to give us a nice clean look for our garden parties and teas.

The NHS Fund at the Community Foundation is growing rapidly, our sponsors checks are being deposited directly and we are moving \$5,000.00 from our checking account to take advantage of the higher interest rate while the money is sitting there. It's our money and we can use it any time we want, just a phone call and a check will be sent.

The momentum is continuing quite nicely and we are making a great impression on our community and the surrounding towns. Keep up the good work. *414 members strong and growing*

OFFICERS:
President: Brian Tanguay
Vice Pres. Vacant
Secretary Christine Stone
Treasurer Debbie Caisse
Curator: Brian Tanguay
Historian: Harry Aldrich

DIRECTORS:

3 year	2 year	1 year
Darlene LaClair	Amy Guthrie	Tom Hurd
OPEN	Tom Jeleniewski	Jessie Duguay
OPEN	Dennis Rich	Ann Lyons

TRUSTEES:
 Tom Jeleniewski
 David Huhtala
 John Brooks



Contact info:
 Main email: narragansethistoricalociety@yahoo.com
 Newsletter Editor: Brian Tanguay

Find us on Facebook—Search for **Narragansett Historical Society**. It's filled with the History of Templeton, Baldwinville, Otter River and East Templeton. Pictures, stories, and faces of the people who lived here years ago. Some new images will be shared from around the town. We have created a "page" instead of a "profile"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2021191824825853/>
Located at 1 Boynton Rd. Templeton MA

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME any time.



Meeting Notice: 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM unless otherwise advertised.

March 28th Senior Center Baldwinville 7pm

April 25th Home again in the Document room! Mark your calendars

Thank you to the Templeton Senior Community Center for helping us print 45 copies of our newsletters each month for those without email accounts.

Narragansett Historical Society
 P.O. Box 354
 Templeton, MA 01468

