

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 19 NO. 1

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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COMMITTEE CHANGES

During its review of the by-laws last year the Board came to the conclusion that defining committee structure outside of the by-laws would provide more flexibility and allow committees to exist based on the current needs of the Society. That change in the by-laws, along with others, was approved by the general membership at the Annual Meeting.

The Board has since reviewed all committees, observing that some rarely, if ever, meet; that much of the day to day work is simply performed by regular volunteers; that overall planning and higher level decision making is carried out by the Board; and that any new needs can be addressed by forming ad-hoc committees. The following summarizes the committee structure that was proposed and approved based on that review. Some committees are eliminated, some are combined, and some have no change.

The Building and Grounds Committee is eliminated. Day-to-day chores and maintenance will be performed by regular volunteers. It will be the responsibility of the Curator, the President, and the Chairman to see that this is done on a daily basis and to schedule an event such as a Spring Cleaning Day when a greater effort is required. Needed repairs or purchases should be brought to their attention. Scheduled maintenance is initiated by the vendors.

The Cemetery Committee is eliminated. The Society will continue to track the Cemetery account funds to be used for Cemetery repairs and maintenance.

The Collections Committee will

continue as in the past, but will include the Acquisitions/De-Accession process as a sub-committee. That sub-committee will meet when necessary and will include representatives from all areas of the Society: Research, Publications, Programs, and Collections.

The Ad-Hoc Encyclopedia Committee is folded into the Website Committee.

The Exhibit Committee will no longer exist as a standing committee. When the need or desire for an exhibit arises, an ad-hoc committee will be formed specifically for that exhibit

The Finance Committee is eliminated.

A new Human Resources Committee will include all functions previously assigned to the Membership, Personnel, Nominating, and Ad-Hoc Volunteer Committees. The overall chair will call meetings requiring a full complement of members, such as for annual nominating, policy issues, and outreach to members whose dues are past due.

The Technology Committee is eliminated. Technology support and maintenance will be performed on a consulting basis by those regular volunteers knowledgeable in this area. An ad-hoc committee will be formed when needed to address specific problems or for planning needs.

The Program, Publications, Research, and Digitization (aka Sharing/Scanning), and Website Committees will continue with no changes.

The board hopes that these changes will streamline the organization structure and promote efficiency.

“HISTORICALLY SPEAKING” ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society produces a new program each month. The series includes interviews and historical pictorial material in a rather flexible TV magazine format. The programs can be seen Wednesdays at 4:00 PM, Thursdays at 1:30 PM, and Fridays at 7:30 PM. DVDs of past episodes can be obtained from Rutland Regional Community Television, 1 Scale Avenue, Suite 108, Rutland, VT 05701-4460. They are \$10 for each episode. Make checks payable to RRCT. Include \$2.50 for shipping and handling. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information. Consult the Society website (rutlandhistory.com) for a complete listing of past shows.

To watch the current or previous episode of “Historically Speaking” in streaming video on your computer: (1) go to the Society website (rutlandhistory.com), (2) click on “Historically Speaking,” and (3) click on the second paragraph which will link you to the Video On Demand Library on the PEG-TV website. In the search box at the top of the video player, type in “Historically Speaking” then click on the magnifying glass button to the right. You should get a choice of the two most recent programs.

In the future the Society will occasionally rerun a program from the earlier years of the “Historically Speaking” series.

Episode # 3 [A rerun] – This program, entitled “A Climb To the Star,” features still photos of the interior of the Congregational Church tower from the entrance of the church to the top of the tower. The program ends with a series of beautiful panoramic views of Rutland from the tower. Architectural features of the church, in and out, and some historic photos are included. Morris Tucker narrates the program which is hosted by Dorothy Whitford.

“MOMENTS IN HISTORY”

The weekly Access Magazine on PEG-TV’s Channel 15 carries a different “Moment in History” each week. These two to three minute moments are produced by the Rutland Historical Society and focus on local history. They can be seen on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM, Friday mornings at 10:00 AM, and Saturday afternoons at 3:30 PM. They are also available in the video on demand section of the PEG-TV website.

COMMITTEE CORNER

President

Carolynn Ranftle –
855-8219

Board Chairperson

Clifford Giffin –
773-3743

Curator

Jim Davidson –
773-7525

Membership Secretary

Robert Perkins –
773-0184

Society Historian

Mary Segale –
773-2326

Chairpersons:

Collections Committee

Tom Carpenter –
773-3626

Program Committee

Jim Davidson –
773-7525

Publications

Committee

Jake Sherman –
775-2784

Research Committee

Rosemary Bradley –
773-9411

Website Committee

Doreen McCullough –
776-5232

SPONSOR MEMBERS AND DONORS FOR 2011

SPONSOR MEMBERS FOR 2011

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**DONATIONS OF \$50
OR MORE FOR 2011**

Loren L. Capron Management
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 Lindsey J. Suddarth
 Dorothy Whitford

NEW LIFE MEMBERS IN 2011

Marian W. Cones
 Lawrence Dellveneri

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: UNDISCOVERED "TREASURES" AND UNTOLD STORIES

Among the Historical Society's holdings there are thousands of "treasures" waiting to be discovered or rediscovered. Each box, drawer, and shelf holds pieces that when woven together can tell amazing stories about persons, places, and things in Rutland's past. There are letters, diaries, photos, scrapbooks, posters, registries, business and industry records, postcards, greeting cards, newspapers and clippings, drawings, paintings, poems, articles of clothing, personal belongings, honorary medals, land deeds, theater programs, maps, organizational records, school yearbooks, military records, church records, cemetery records, government records, all kinds of ephemera, records of special celebrations and events, and records of buildings and streets. The list goes on and on.

Each seeker can make his own discovery, which may simply evoke awe, might trigger curiosity to dig deeper, or might even initiate a full-blown search for a bigger story.

The treasures are there, waiting for you to find them!

WEBSITE

Over the past few months some exciting new material has been added for our web viewers. The Rutland Directories from 1872-1924 are now online in the Historical Resources section. It's fascinating to view the advertisements from businesses in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Image Gallery is continuing to expand. A Textile Photograph Collection has recently been added. Viewers can enjoy browsing through clothing worn during different time periods. Some of the clothing items were worn by well-known Rutland people. Fourteen Rutland Historical Society Quarterlies have been scanned and added to our growing number of digitized Quarterlies. The committee is currently doing a full review of the site to keep content up to date.

VCF AWARDS GRANT TO SOCIETY

In December, the Society was thrilled to be informed that its application to the Vermont Community Foundation's Summer/Fall 2011 Community Fund grant round was approved in the amount of \$1,000 for general operating support.

ARTICLE IN VERMONT BUSINESS JOURNAL

The December 2011 edition of the *Vermont Business Journal* featured Rutland area businesses and non-profit organizations. The Rutland Historical Society provided an article "Behind These Walls," which describes what a visitor to the Society will see at the Nickwackett Firehouse as well as some of the activities that go on inside its walls. It also provided a photo of the James Hope painting of a West Rutland Marble quarry, which introduced the Rutland section.

SOCIETY DOCUMENTS POLICY STATEMENTS

The recently approved by-laws changes state that "The Society shall document and maintain its policies on Non-Discrimination, Ethics, Privacy, Ownership, and Copyright." This was accomplished at the December board meeting and the policies can be found at this link: <http://www.rutlandhistory.com/documents/DOCUMENTEDPOLICIESasPassedDec132011pdf.pdf> on the Society's website. Printed copies are available on request.

PARTNERSHIP WITH RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY

Early this year the Rutland Free Library Board contacted the Society, seeking to develop an active partnership to help realize one of their strategic goals: to preserve and share Rutland's heritage. Representatives from both organizations are now meeting on a monthly basis to determine what joint projects will benefit both organizations as well as the community. The first initiative will be to digitize the Marvel Swan notebooks held by the library. This will preserve and protect the library's collection and will add to the Swan data already held by the Society. The feasibility of a second initiative, to digitize the yearbooks of local high schools, is also being pursued. The projects will be staffed by volunteers from both organizations. The Society is looking forward to a long and active partnership with the library.

SOCIETY OUTREACH

Bill Powers gave presentations at the Brandon Library and the Salisbury and Goshen Historical Societies. Fred Remington presented programs at the West Rutland Rotary and at Linden Terrace. Jim Davidson did a four-part series on Rutland History for the Osher Program at the Godnick Center. He and Karen Sanborn attended the Vermont Archivists meeting at the Shelburne Museum. This year the Society will again be participating in the Loyalty Day Parade in Rutland and the Vermont History Expo at Tunbridge, Vermont. Look for us.

**THE FACILITIES OF THE RUTLAND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE OPEN ON:**

MONDAYS 6-9 PM

SATURDAYS 1-4 PM

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