

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2026 ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

Sunday, October 4, 2026

1. Call to Order

Establish quorum and review agenda.

2. Approval of 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

3. Officer Reports

Treasurer • President

4. Old Business

5. Election of Officers and Director

Vice President • Secretary • Treasurer • Director

6. President Position / Governance Continuity

Consideration of the President position in accordance with the Society's bylaws.

7. New Business

8. Adjournment

Members are invited to participate in the meeting and election of officers and director.

Next scheduled Board meeting: October 13, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Rutland Vermont Historical Society
2026 Annual Board Meeting
Sundayday, October 4th, 2026

Guest Speaker:

Skylar Bailey, Author of "Nothing but Honor: Eyewitness Accounts of the Battle of Hubbardton"

Skyler Bailey is a Vermont-born author, military historian, and researcher best known for his works on the Revolutionary War's Battle of Hubbardton and the WWII 10th Mountain Division, blending rigorous historical research with vivid narrative.

2026 Annual Business Board Meeting

Called to order @ 3:23

Present:

Officers: Barb Giffin / President Scott Kaufman / Vice President
Randy Brown / Treasurer Susan Carroll / Secretary

Directors: Carolynn Ranftle Ron Hemenway
Doreen McCullough Tom Capuano
Tom Hughes Bill Ellwood

Members: Tom Giffin
Melody Hemenway Rosemary Bradley

Approval of 2025 Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Susan Carroll, Secretary

Motion to accept by Bill Ellwood, seconded by Doreen McCullough

All in favor, motion passes.

Treasurers Report: Randy Brown

See attached

Web Report: Doreen McCullough

See attached

Collections Report: Ron Hemenway

See attached

Presidents Report: Barb Giffin

See attached

Old Business:

Building repair: Tom Giffin suggested that some of our board members attend a Board of Alderman meeting and speak "Outside the Rail" and bring to their attention the condition and needs of repair of this Historical Building. We have been after the mayor's office for three years now and are getting nowhere. By doing this not only does it put the alderman on notice, but raise public awareness. Being televised by PEGTV puts it out to everyone.

Elections:

Position of Director: one position open at this time.

Nominee: Ron Hemenway.

There are no other nominees

All in favor of Ron Hemenway as director 2026 through 2028

Position of Treasurer

Nominee: Randy Brown

There are no other nominees

All in favor of Randy Brown as treasurer

Position of Vice President:

Nominee: Scott Kaufman.

There are no other nominees

All in favor of Scott Kaufman as vice-president

Position of Secretary:

Nominee: Susan Carroll.

There are no other nominees

All in favor of Susan Carroll as secretary

Position of President:

There are no eligible nominations for president.

No election is conducted; the current president will continue to serve until a successor has been duly elected or appointed.

Officers:

Barb Giffin / President

Scott Kaufman / Vice President

Randy Brown / Treasurer

Susan Carroll / Secretary

Directors:

Carolynn Ranftle

Ron Hemenway

Bill Ellwood

Doreen McCullough

Tom Hughes

Tom Capuano

New Business:

Laptops: Scott reached out to Dale and Whitney Christie in regards to laptop recommendations. They stopped in recently to evaluate the laptops. Attached is their recommendation. Discussion included the possibility of purchasing brand new laptops. (Laptops were purchased August 22, 2019). It was suggested that we invite them to attend our next Zoom meeting on the 13th.

Barb alerted us to a donation that we will be receiving anonymously. It is a 1761 original charter for Rutland proper, signed by Benning Wentworth. This donation is to remain anonymous and will happen before December 30th.

Tom Capuano recommends that we begin preparing to properly receive and store this document. Possibly preserve it for display.

Motion made to adjourn meeting made by Barb Giffin. Motion seconded by Randy Brown. Motion passes.

Meeting Adjourned @ 4:30

Next Board meeting scheduled October 13th, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Website Report (Annual Report 2026)

In commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026, the webmaster added an America 250 page in celebration of this historic event. This page incorporates a listing of month-by-month events throughout Vermont beginning with the Westminster Massacre held on March 13, 2025 to the Battle of Bennington to be held on August 16, 2027. Be sure to check this page frequently as new events are added on a regular basis.

9 new Historically Speaking episodes have been added to the website. These include HS Episodes #218-226 and cover a wide variety of historical topics ranging from "Living with Revolutionary War Ancestors", to "Soldiers, Stones and Stories, Parts 1-3. The Society is deeply grateful to Michael Dwyer for his tireless effort to create and host each of these monthly shows. Archived versions of these and earlier shows can be found on the Historically Speaking page of our website.

Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 1), added 5 Newsletters to their webpage. An update (2024) of the Rutland County Vietnam Honor Roll was added to their "Special Documents page". The Rutland Historical Society is proud to serve as the depository for the complete Digital Archive of Chapter 1 Documents. We also host the Green Mountain Club (Long Trail) newsletters and hiking schedules. Their newsletter (Smoke & Blazes) is archived from 1948 to 2026 on the Smoke & Blazes page.

Our website contains a "Municipal Reports" page located under the Collections tab. The mission of the Rutland Historical Society is to collect, hold, preserve and interpret historical material relating to the original Town of Rutland which today includes: Proctor, Rutland City, Rutland Town and West Rutland. Pursuant to the Society's mission, the webmaster added the current 4 Town Reports from each of these towns and city.

The growing number of archived and current Quarterlies can be found under the Publications tab. Quarterly #1 and #2) Vol. 55 (2025) as well as a sneak peek at Quarterly #3 Vol. 55 2025 are the recent uploads for this year. Be sure to take a moment and look at the quarterlies from (1970-2025).

The Rutland Historical Society is proud to serve as the digital depository for each of the local high schools that fall under its "Mission". These Yearbooks reside under the "Collections" tab on the website. Added this year were the Yearbooks' from Mount St. Joseph, Mill River, Rutland High School, Proctor and West Rutland. Take a walk down memory lane and look at your Yearbook if you are a graduate from any of these schools.

Our Slide Viewer, on our main page, offers an eclectic selection of photographs from our Aldo Merusi collection. Samples of some of the photos added include:

October's slide viewer photos highlighted photographs from the book "THE RIVALRY", which describes the rivalry between Rutland High School and Mount Saint Joseph High School during their first 60 years of competition.

"Happy Holidays from the Past" was our featured slide viewer presentation for December. These Aldo Merusi photos provide a wonderful vignette of Christmas and Hanukah scenes around Rutland and Rutland County.

Our slide viewer feature for January spotlighted the historic Berwick Hotel Fire on the Corner of Wales and Center Streets in January, 1973. This massive fire was captured by extensive photos taken by Aldo Merusi. .

The March slide viewer spotlighted the areas ski industry with photos of the Rutland Ski Jump circa 1927.

To remind everyone, last year a revision was made to the "Membership" section under the Join Us tab. Included on the page are the new "Membership" changes that were passed by the Society's Board members last year. Also revised was a new "Printable Membership Form" created by the webmaster. You can also pay by credit or debit card by using the PayPal button located on the top of the page.

After our 2025 Annual Meeting I created a new page on our website that provides information on our past meetings. The page is entitled "Annual Meetings-Archive". This new page will allow current Society members to review past Board of Directors, By-Laws, etc. The page presently has annual meetings for 2024-2025 and will be kept up to date by the Webmaster.

Stats at a Glance

All Time Stats

The Virtual Walking Tour Views – 1992

Page Views past 30 days 8,198

Rutland Halloween Parade. Views - 557

- Site views (past 7 days) -702
- Historically Speaking Episode #222. Views-29
- Sessions-1.3K
- Historically Speaking Episode #220 Views - 20
- Referrals-1.1K
- City Of Rutland Annual Report 2024 – Views - 44
- Top Post (Rutland's Prominent Women)-629
- Rutland Town Report 2024 – Views – 38
- Rutland High School Yearbook 2025- Views 226
- Mount Saint Joseph Yearbook 2025 –Views 195

Demographics (Sessions)-United States - 2.1K

Devices – Chrome – 1.5K

Device Breakdown:

Desktop – 62.6% / Mobile - 31.2% / Tablet - 6.2%

Browser Breakdown:

Chrome – 58.7% / Safari – 20.0% / Firefox – 10.6% / Others – 10.7%

Visit our website at www.rutlandhistory.com and our Facebook site at www.facebook.com/rutlandvthistorical/

Respectfully,

***Doreen McCullough* (Webmaster)**

Collections/Accessions Report for Annual meeting 2026

- A # 2025-33 Rutland Herald & Globe -July,12th 1879
- A# 2025-34 Smith, Nehemiah - Marvel Swan Collection
- A # 2025-35 "The Marble Trail" pamphlet by Vermont Marble Company
- A # 2025-36 Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region Annual 2025
Report - 125-37
- A # 2025-37 2 cent post card from Rutland, Vt
- A # 2025-38 War Ration Book - 93-1
- A#2025-39 Cabell, Sandra - Bio C
- A#2025- 40 Postcards of Vermont Covered Bridges
- A#2025- 41 Rutland Herald (11/06/1927) 1927 Flood
- A #2025- 42 Rutland County Stamp Club material
- A #2026 - 01Rutland related Photos by George Chalmers - 39 -14
- A # 2026-2 Eastern Orthodox Church books from Church in Proctor ,Vt in Cyrillic
- A # 2026-3 Photo of MSJ football team year unknown
- A # 2026- 3 MSJ class day exercises pamphlets 1935, 1939
- A # 2026-3 MSJ Graduation photo 1935
- A # 2026-3 St Peters School graduation photo 1931
- A # 2026-3 St Peters School 2nd grade class photo 1924
- A # 2026-3 St Peters School 4th grade class photo 1926
- A # 2026-3 St Peters School class pamphlets: Annual Commencement 1931
- A # 2026-3 Photos of Nickwackett Fire station #2 (2)
- A # 2026-3 "History of MSJ & Rutland High School Football 1930 -1973 by Norm Ladabouche
& Edward Carroll
- A # 2026-4 1902 Photo of young businessmen in front of the clement building
- A #2026-5 Post cards (Vt Marble Co.)
- A #2026-06 Neil Tinker Documents
- A #2026-07 Book of old photos by Rutland Photographer , Civil War era letter 29-26C
- A #2026-08 Book -"Heart of Green Mountains" (May be duplicate)
- A#2026-17 Various materials Carole Lefrancis, including Rutland High School Class of 1952
- A#2026-18 Book: "Stories & Pictures of Vermont Flood , Nov. 1927 Compiled by RE Atwood"
- A#2026-19 Pamphlet : "1947 Flood"
- A#2026-20 Book: "Historical Rutland an illustrated history of Rutland from the granting of the
charter in 1761 to 1911"
- A#2026-21 Baby Dresses(2) from 1940's from the Hinckley Family
- A#2026-22 Misc. Rutland Obits
- A#2026-23 Misc Rutland Heralds
- A#2026-24 Post Cards- Rutland Steam Engines -DB 30-1
- A#2026-25 Photos/ Letters Early Pico Peak
- A#2026-26 Flag used in Rutland on by the Green Mountain boy Statue in 1976
- 2026-27 Book: " Life of Eben , Battle of Gettysburg Veteran & Iowa Homesteader"
- A#2026-28 Book: " Centennial Celebration of Rutland, Vt "
- A#2026-29 Binder of 2011 Flood info
- A#2026-30 CVPS Newspaper "On the Circuit " 1979 Holiday issue
- A#2026-31 Dress
- A#2026-32 Seward's Dairy Milk Bottle Crate
- A#2026-33 Book" Greetings from Rutland " by Debbie Dubay
- A#2026-34 Rutland Town PTO Cookbook
- A#2026-34 Vt State Fair Premium Book for 2026 A#2026-34 Vt State Fair Program for 2026
- A#2026-34 Vt State Fair Guide book for 2026
- A#2026-35 Musical Programs, Plays & musical Revues
- A#2026-36 Civil War Pension File of Col. Rollins Maranville born in Poultney, Vt

Transcript from Dale & Whitney Christie regarding recommendations for laptops

From: Dale Christie <dale@christiemediaworks.com>

Date: [Sun, Sep 27, 2026](#) at 5:17 PM

Subject: Laptop Recommendation

To: Scott Kaufman <wholetone@gmail.com>

Hi Scott,

Whitney and I reviewed the info we got on the laptops. Your staff would likely see a noticeable improvement from adding more RAM or replacing the hard drive with a solid state drive. Both would be even better, but we recommend upgrading the hard drive on one of the 3 laptops and then making a decision on what to do after that. You may not be able to notice any further improvement after replacing the hard drive. That would definitely be the best bang for your buck. I also gave some estimates for new laptops.

Pricing options:

- RAM upgrade: ~\$60 each
- SSD Upgrade: ~\$260 each
- New laptop with 17" screen: ~\$950 (HP) or \$939 (Lenovo)
- New Laptop with 15.6" screen, 12GB RAM, 256GB SSD: ~\$650 (HP)
- *prices above don't include sales taxes

Replacing the hard drive usually means reinstalling Windows and all the applications, but Whitney can use a special device that copies all contents from the old to the new and when the new drive is installed, requires no further work. That piece of equipment is expensive and not something she owns, but has access to. Because of that, we would have to visit the RHS, remove the hard disk from one of them (we recommend the 3rd one, rightmost laptop), borrowing it for a few days to do the work, and then returning it. Before we did that, we would require you to review the files on the computer and make sure all critical files are backed up onto another device.

We are willing to purchase and donate a new solid state drive, and install it at no cost to the RHS. If that is the route you choose, we'd be willing to do the same for the remaining 2 if that upgrade meets your immediate needs. There's no guarantee of course, but we'd hope you could get a few more years out of these laptops, especially if the "spinning" hard drive is replaced. Those generally have only 5+ years of use and are often the first component to fail on computers.

Your thoughts or questions?

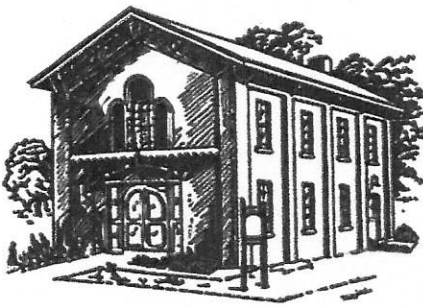
Second Email Communication:

On [Tue, Oct 6, 2026](#) at 8:35 AM S K <wholetone@gmail.com> wrote:

From Dale:

"Computers do last longer than they used to, and with an SSD, I'd feel good about relying on it another 3-5 years. Adding a SSD is the best possible thing you could do for an old computer with a spinning disk. I definitely recommend doing the upgrade to one, and seeing how you like it. If only using a web browser to surf the web and use the local database, I don't know if you'd see much difference, if any, with a new computer. Because you have 3 working computers serving the same purpose, and have backups, there doesn't seem to be much risk keeping old hardware. Perhaps getting one new computer isn't a bad idea. There is no price savings with 2 or 3 vs 1, so perhaps 1 new one after doing an upgrade to one. The amount of work we'd do is minimal, so that would be my recommendation. Whitney would agree with the above and suggests upgrade one now, then replace the preferred of the 3, replace the remaining one next year, and then the year after that, replace the upgraded one.

As for attending a meeting, we don't mind, but may not have much to add beyond what is above. Let me know what you think. A call by Zoom is fine with us and we'll do in person if you prefer.



Old Fire Station # 2 – Nickwackett

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

96 Center Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701-4023
telephone (802) 775-2006



Annual Treasurer's Report of the Rutland Historical Society Inc.

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026

Revenue from grants, gifts, membership dues, sales of quarterlies and books, and bank interest finance the General Fund. Other revenues received were from a Trust.

Total funds in all bank accounts and certificates of deposits at beginning of year totaled \$26,409.96.

Total funds in all bank accounts and certificates of deposits at end of year totaled \$29,216.32.

Our bank assets increased by \$2,806.36 for the year.

Allocated funds at year-end are as follows: Life and Prepaid Dues \$17,225.00; Capital Fund \$10,000; Restoration & Preservation Fund \$421.93 and a Contingency Fund of \$625.44.

During this fiscal year, the total amount of revenue to the General Fund was \$20,638.76 and the total amount of expenditure from the General Fund was \$17,722.13. This resulted in an increase of \$2,916.63 for the year.

The Society received \$11,872.92 in gifts during the year.

We had no new life members during the fiscal year ending 6/30/26.

IRS tax form 990 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 is being completed by Tom Carpenter and will be filed in October, 2026. Also, the society is in good standings with the Vermont Secretary of State. The next biennial report, as a nonprofit corporation, with the State of Vermont isn't due until 2027.

Respectfully submitted by

Randall S. Brown

Treasurer

The Rutland Historical Society-2026

Highlights of this past year began at last year's annual meeting with the unveiling of the newly restored oil portrait of Reverend Hadley Proctor.

We are again very grateful to the Rutland City Fire Department, whose steady presence and watchful care of our historic grounds and building have been invaluable. The Rutland City Recreation and Parks Department has kept our property neatly maintained and we are thankful for the electrician who resolved our exterior lighting issues.

We are looking to have the trim painted and the roof repointed next year.

Our sincere thanks also go to the Rutland Garden Club, whose members refreshed and tended our front gardens with great skill and enthusiasm this past year. Their efforts have beautifully prepared us to welcome visitors in proper fashion, and we look forward to a continued partnership.

Firehouse No. 2 continues to serve as a welcoming meeting space for small civic and local organizations, including the Rutland Garden Club Board, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Sons of Union Veterans.

On July 8, 2026, the Society proudly sponsored a full public reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Main Street Park gazebo in honor of the 250th anniversary of its first public reading in 1776 in Philadelphia. The event was well attended, and we extend our gratitude to all who participated—our dedicated readers, **Randy Roberts, 10yo Ardin Mullaney, Cheryl Hooker, Senator David Weeks, Cindy Roberts, Jack Crowthers, 7yo Mercy Kaufman, Barbara Giffin, Tom Rounds, Senator Brian Collamore, and Tom Giffin**; the VFW Color Guard; the Sons of Union Veterans; **Scott Kaufman** who played TAPS; and the many community members who joined us.

Also, as a result of a recent donation, we have a new display of G.H. Grimm & Co.

We remain deeply fortunate to have a team of talented volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes at the Nickwackett Fire Station. Their dedication keeps our website growing, our archives accessible, and the Society running smoothly. I extend my personal thanks to each and every one of them.

Thanks to those who keep me in line: Vice President, **Scott Kaufman**; Treasurer, **Randy Brown** and the rest of our great board: **Carolyn Ranftle, Susan Carroll, Ron Hemenway, Bill Ellworth, Tom Hughes, Doreen McCullough and Tom Capuano**.

They have been exceptionally busy scanning, fielding questions, answering phone calls, cataloging, and preserving materials with help from **Brandon Farrell, Laurie Wilson, Gay Sullivan, and Kathy Adams**. Special recognition goes to **Clifford Giffin**, who has undertaken the monumental task of scanning the Rutland Herald negatives. He has scanned nearly 50,000 images—right up until the scanner gave out entirely.

Michael Dwyer continues to lead our *Historically Speaking* public access segment with distinction, and I was honored to join him alongside VOCA President, **Tom Giffin**.

The Society continues to respond to as many inquiries as possible and works diligently to keep pace with the growing demand on social media. **Carolynn Ranftle and Doreen McCullough** oversee our Facebook and website.

Our website, continues to grow each month, especially the expanding collection of local materials and newly digitized resources. Yearbooks for 2023 and 2024 have now been scanned and uploaded to the Internet Archive for the Rutland area, and **Susan Carroll and Doreen McCullough** are currently scanning yearbooks from area high schools for the 2025-2026 school year.

On we go. We are extremely excited for 2027.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara L. Giffin, President
Rutland Historical Society