EAST HADDAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM, INC.
ANNUAL REPORT
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2024

Mission Statement:
The East Haddam Historical Society illuminates and preserves the stories of the people and places that shape our community.

Vision Statement:
The East Haddam Historical Society aspires to become the prominent heritage, cultural, and social center of East Haddam.

Financial Information:
~The Endowment Fund is invested with Norwich Financial and continues to provide long-term support. Use of the Endowment Fund is dictated by the Investment Fund Policy.
The Board of Trustees has followed a conservative approach to expenditures through a FY24 balanced budget.
~Grant Funding:

- CT Humanities Museum Makeover (improve the visitor experience)
- CT Humanities Planning Implementation Grant (re-envision permanent exhibit gallery)

Projects for the year:
~Our incredibly talented and dedicated volunteers – aka "The Muses" – are at the Museum every Tuesday & Thursday from 10:00 – 4:00. Some accomplishments this year include:

- New exhibits (Women in the Domestic Economy, First Settler Families, Hamilton Sisters)
- Facility improvements (new exhibit lighting, painting, cleaning)
- Organizing and cataloging the archival collection
- Planning public events/presentations

~Volunteers have also contributed time and talent to accomplish the following:

- Design/build of a new gift store display counter (Jim Francese)
- Improvement/upgrade to IT systems (John Bielot)
- Facility Rental Policy and Expectations for Board Members Policy (Scott Jezek)
- Cataloging of the Langston Kihn art collection (Maureen Tarbox)
- Docent led tours of the Museum

~Partnership with SimonPure Media (Ken Simon) for ongoing technical support and historical content development for our digital history website: https://www.easthaddamstories.org/
~Partnership with Yale University Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences to install a Seismometer & internet connected monitor at the Museum and a Seismometer at Cave Hill

Camp to record the Moodus Noises and other seismic activity. We will plan a public presentation of this project in 2025.

Presentations/Events:

~Summer at the Museum series of natural history talks and other presentations for children and families

~Monthly public events:

- Linguistic Warriors, Celebrating Casey Miller & Kate Swift (in partnership with CT Landmarks & Palmer Warner House), Ken Simon & Jesse White-Frese
- First Settler Families (Cone, Ackley, Hungerford/Brownell)
- Life & Times of Adriaen Block, Dr. Johan Varekamp
- VFW 3336 Cemetery Committee Fundraiser (Cemetery Troopers)
- Civil War Letters of Abner Smith, Claire Smith
- Life & Times of Dr. Alice Hamilton, Janet Lemond & Kandi Carle
- East Haddam Revolutionary War Heroes, Mathilda Burke https://www.revolutionaryheroes-easthaddam.com/
- Bloom Where You Are Planted, Nora Myers Photography Exhibit
- Historic Buildings of EH's Upper Landing, Dr. Karl Stofko
- Annual Mysteries of East Haddam, Dr. Karl Stofko

~1st Annual Harvest Moon Oktoberfest fundraiser (Peggy Wolf Kennedy, Pam Champlin, Jesse White-Frese)

- 120 attendees
- Food provided by Hometown Market
- Music by the We 3 band
- Special Thank You to Eastern Rental (Bruce Dutch) and Jansky Rubbish (Angie) for donations
- Net profit $10,000.

Appreciation:

I thank all our members for your ongoing financial support and interest in preserving and presenting East Haddam history. I am especially grateful to the Executive Committee (VP Peggy Wolf Kennedy, Treasurer John Bielot, Corresponding & Acting Recording Secretary Phil Piccolo), Museum Director Pam Champlin, Communications Director Jesse White-Frese, Archivist Joanne Maynard, and all the Trustees for your dedicated service to the Society.

Respectfully submitted
Bruce Sievers, President
Board of Trustees