

July 2019

Open Letter to Members of the Avon Chamber of Commerce

As a member of the Avon Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to alert you to an opportunity that could benefit your business as well as the Avon Historical Society and Town of Avon.

In 1981 the Avon Historical Society signed a lease agreement with the Town of Avon which resulted in the relocation one year later of an 1823 one-room schoolhouse from Country Club Road to its current location at 8 East Main Street (Route 44). This building is the oldest structure owned by the Town and is listed on the State Register of Historic Places. The Society opened it as “The Living Museum” in 1985 welcoming visitors on Sunday afternoons until it was closed in 2012. The decision to close was timely because the exhibit installed inside needed updating and the collection was growing due to many donations over the almost three decades since it opened. Most recently, it has become the storage facility for cleaned items such as large furniture, household items, etc. from the fire at the Derrin House in 2016. The Trustees of the Society decided in 2018 that it was time to return the Schoolhouse to a fully functioning museum, with climate controlled archival storage, in time for the 200th anniversary of the building in 2023.

The Town of Avon and the Avon Historical Society have created a multi-year plan of improvements to this one room schoolhouse, including the rear entrance, cellar and up-to-code handicapped ramp with the goal of re-opening the facility as a modern museum with a detailed interpretation of Avon’s history. The Town has budgeted some funds in its Capital Improvement Budget and the Society has committed similar matching funds, but it is not enough to do everything needed.

For this reason, the Society has submitted a Neighborhood Assistance Act application to the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services seeking Energy Efficient Improvement funding in the amount of \$91,000 from the business sector in exchange for tax credits. The application is attached for your review. Funding can come from one business or several. As you will read, we need to install new energy efficient windows, siding, roof, doors, make repairs to the cellar and bathroom as well as install an HVAC system, in order to keep our archival collection and exhibit area climate controlled. The Town of Avon plans to supplement these projects by completing ADA improvements, installing a new security system and landscaping the site.

Each day is a little bit of history. ~José Saramago



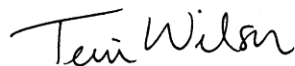
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I invite you to consider donating to this project, either in whole or in part, so that we can realize this vision for the center of Avon which will add to the already well known charm and character of our Town. To do so, you will need to complete the attached NAA-2 form (also available at the link listed at the bottom of this letter) and submit the NAA-2 form to CT DRS, either via email or USPS, to the addresses indicated at the top of the form. NAA-2 forms may be submitted on or after September 15, 2019 but no later than October 1, 2019.

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions, or would like to see the schoolhouse, please let me know. I am happy to provide more details as needed. If you have questions about the NAA program, your entity's eligibility, or the NAA-02 Form, please call the Department of Revenue Services, Research Unit at (860) 297-5687.

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DRS/Forms/2019/Corporation/NAA-02-Fillable.pdf?la=en>

Sincerely,



Terri Wilson
President
president@avonhistoricalsociety.org

cc: NAA attachments



Schoolhouse No. 3 – built in 1823, moved to current site 1982
8 East Main Street, Avon