

Mendon Historical Society

For calendar year 2020

What a year it has been! We started out the year presenting a program on March 12 in the town office sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council. It was well-attended and only a few days later the town office closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. We had planned other activities, but those things were put on hold until we could safely schedule anything.

But, during the year we did accomplish the design, construction, and installation of an informational series of three panels on the former site of the Old Town Hall. (See photo below.) Many thanks go to the town for largely funding this project from a Reserve Fund that had been maintained over the years for the maintenance of the previous building, to Fred and Jennifer Bagley for their copywriting and design talents, and to Awesome Graphics for their creative execution of the plan. Although we could not have a festive celebration of this project, we did manage to have our Annual Meeting at the site in September, masked and six feet apart.

Another project undertaken by Fred Bagley was the creation of a comprehensive hiking guide covering trails in Mendon. The guide can be downloaded from the Mendon website (look under Community, then Mendon Hiking Trails) or it is for sale at the town office.

In the year ahead, we plan to continue working with the Vermont State Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to create a walking trail with signage and information at Tamarack Notch, the former site of the Girl Scout Camp on Notch Road. We will do research on the history of Mendon Mountain Orchards, and hopefully plan some hikes to areas of interest in the town.

The Mendon Historical Society is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit corporation “with the intent to educate and preserve Mendon’s history for the future,” according to our by-laws. Our archives, located on the second floor of the Town Office, are now completely filed and indexed so that they are easily accessible to the general public. We generally meet four times a year in April, June, September, and November at 5:00 p.m. at the Mendon Town Office. Depending on the pandemic restrictions, we hope that schedule can be maintained in the coming year. Anyone is welcome to attend.

We are requesting \$500 in the proposed town budget. We have appreciated the town support in the past, and we plan to continue our work of exploring and preserving the history of our town.

Thanks to all our members for their support and please feel free to contact any of us for more information on any of our activities and for information on joining our organization. Please let us know if you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive periodic newsletters.

Ann Singiser, President
Jennifer Bagley, Secretary

Shelly Susina, Vice-President
Richard Kaufman, Treasurer

