

WATERVILLE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
Volume 2, Number 2 April 2020

Dear Fellow Historians,

These are unprecedented times for us globally, nationally and in our beloved Waterville Valley. At this writing, WV has two confirmed cases of COVID-19 and residents are taking steps to protect themselves and others from additional infections. We refer you to the Wigwag for current details. We imagine that this is how Valley residents and summer visitors felt during the years of World War II, when they struggled to keep the Waterville Inn open as an association. This is documented in Nathaniel Goodrich's 1952 history of the Valley. The current pandemic has been compared to that war both in the impact on much of the world and on the national effort needed by all Americans to overcome this challenge and emerge stronger.

For now, we battle a pandemic, but we can look forward to the day when we can celebrate victory, which is likely to come in the form of a vaccine as well as testing to identify immunity.

In spite of the challenges we now face in gathering in person, we are moving ahead to plan multiple activities, some near term and some longer term. The Society's Board has been very productive since our January Newsletter.

UPDATES:

- We have secured a small rental space in Town Square which will serve as temporary storage and as a workspace for the Society. The Waterville Valley Resort has generously donated the rent in the amount of \$155 per month. We will also have a display window which will be home to exhibits by the Society.
- Historical Walking Tours: We are working with the Waterville Valley Rec Department and the WVAIA to provide historical walks and hikes. Our historian Preston Conklin has created a script for a fun, informative in-town walk. This script, along with the script for the Cellar Hole Hike, will be published in the Waterville Valley Guide book, which we expect to be available sometime this summer. We are also working on scripts for historical Trolley Tours.
- We are looking into placing some tasteful historical markers around the Valley. We are in touch with the Campton Historical Society regarding their signs, and will work with Preston Conklin on possible locations.
- Website and Facebook: We now have a volunteer who is working to create a website for the Society. Facebook is still a work in progress and should be available soon.
- Museum: Architect Christian LaVigna has donated his time and talent to create preliminary plans for our Museum. We asked for a building that had the look of a barn and that would complement our historic library. His plans have far exceeded our expectations. We are still in the very early stages of this project, but Christian's design has brought our vision to paper. The building would have a full basement that would be used for storage and as a workspace. The main level

would be an open area with movable walls that would give flexibility to the space. The space would be used primarily for exhibits, but would also allow us to open up the room for events. Our vision is to have gardens and an outdoor space to be shared by the Society, and the Library for events in the warm weather.

- Welcome Center Exhibit: The Resort provided us with the services of Andrew Beattie, a very talented gentleman who created a wonderful exhibit for us. Please stop by and take a look.
- Town Meeting Presentation: We once again used this opportunity to talk about the purpose and goals of the Society, our accomplishments, and future plans. Attached please find our power-point presentation, including preliminary plans for the Museum.
- Town commitment to the Society: We requested that the Town support the Society with a \$10,000 annual commitment. We are pleased to report that the Society is now an annual line item in the budget. We are very appreciative of this support.
- With the present health situation, we do not have any immediate plans for lectures. We are, however, working with the Rey Center on a series of joint lectures from July through October.
- 2020 Membership Applications/Renewals were mailed out to all Members. If you have not received an application please email us and we will send one out. If you have not returned your application please do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your continued support.

EVENTS

- July 25: The Society will co-host a Blood Drive with the Waterville Valley Silver Streaks at the Waterville Valley Rec Department Multipurpose Room, from 9:00am until 2:00pm.
- July 26: Victorian Day, a Town-wide event which will include walks, hikes, crafts, games, storytelling, and much more.
- August 29: Annual Meeting with presentation, social time and substantive snacks at the Waterville Valley Rec Department Multipurpose Room, at 5:00pm.
- September 6: Annual Cellar Hole Hike with Preston and Brenda Conklin.
- September 6: Third Annual "Getting to Know the Valley" in the Town Square.

Please understand that, with the current restrictions due to COVID-19, these dates are subject to change.

We are fortunate to have our beautiful Valley and the surrounding National Forest in which to enjoy being outdoors. There should be enough space and enough trails for us to maintain a safe physical distance, and we can find ways to connect socially without gathering physically. Check <https://www.watervillevalley.org/> for updates on what is going on in the Valley.

History Tidbit

Nathaniel Goodrich's book notes that in August, 1945, the guests at the Inn and the cottage owners gathered around a car outside the Inn to listen to the radio for news that the war was over. When the news was confirmed, people decided to celebrate by gathering in the Inn, "in a way that was new to the Valley". The book leaves it there, but a note from Nat Goodrich in his copy of the book reveals that he left something out, because it would have been "too risqué". The Valley was dry at the time, no alcohol was available at the Inn. Nat wrote that people retreated to their cottages and emerged with bottles of various alcoholic beverages, which were enjoyed by all "before the great Inn fireplace".

Source: Goodrich, N.L. *The Waterville Valley*, The North Country Press, Lunenburg, Vt., 1952;

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