

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE HISTORY

DURING THE 1980'S the Town Hall Committee was formed under the leadership of Jim Hearne who was able to accomplish renovations through volunteer help and fund raising that enabled use for the next thirty years. In 1986, however, the capacity for the upstairs hall was limited by the NH Fire Marshall to 48 persons and the stage remained unused until 2009 when the River Theater Company began refurbishing the hall in exchange for use of the space for workshops and costume storage. In May, 2011 a Fire Safety Study mandated the installation of a sprinkler and fire alarm system in order for continued public use of the building and led to the closure of the second floor hall. The Town Hall Committee was then resurrected by Charlestown residents to focus attention on the needs of the Town Hall. A partnership of the building users was formed and the THC is now a permanent independent body that seeks to keep residents fully informed on issues affecting use of the Town Hall, raises and expends funds for renovations and provides for long-term stewardship for the building.

THC EXECUTIVE BOARD

*THE CURRENT PRESIDENT/CHAIR OF THE
FOLLOWING 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATIONS
FORM THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THC*

Historical Society: Judi Baraly
Rotary Club: John McKane
Heritage Commission: Duane Wetherby
River Theater Company: T. Goodwin-Norman
Town of Charlestown: Steven Neill

Alternates: John Bruno, Heidi Fagan and David Edkins.

MEMBERSHIP

for the Town Hall Committee

The Committee members welcome all interested persons to join in their efforts. If you have attended activities regularly held at the Town Hall such as monthly Historical Society programs, Rotary sponsored events or rented it for a private function, you know it is well worth the investment of your time.

Our goal is to increase awareness of the potential this building has for multiple users and preserve its remarkable history for our community.

Contact Judi at 826-9943.

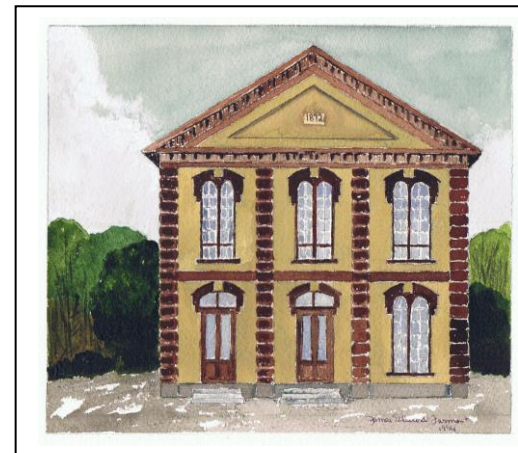
WINDOW PROJECT

New exterior storm windows were provided through public donations and the installation was completed in 2016 by Doug Scott of American Plate Glass. The original windows were refurbished and re-hung by Larry St.Pierre our favorite Charlestown handyman extraordinaire. Brass plates have been installed to honor the donors.

The Town Hall on Summer Street was nominated to the **NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS** by Gladness Luce, a town historian, and entered on the Register on March 15, 1983. On October 12, 2011 it was selected by the NH Preservation Alliance for the 2011 **Seven to Save** listing based on a nomination by Judi Baraly, of the Historical Society.

CHARLESTOWN TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

Help us preserve the
**SOCIAL & CULTURAL
CENTER OF
CHARLESTOWN**



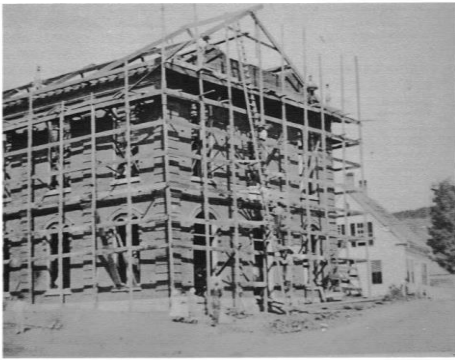
Watercolor by local artist, James F. Furman

**1872-2017
145 YEARS
CONTINUOUS USE**

**CHARLESTOWN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 159
CHARLESTOWN, NH 03603**

For additional information about this
project contact:

Judi Baraly: 826-9943
OR ANY THC MEMBER



Preserving History

Charlestown had outgrown the original Town House by 1870 and this building was relocated to Briggs Lane where it served as housing for workers and today is still in service as an apartment house. The Town Hall, designed by NH architect, Edward Dow was built by A.P. Clifford and completed in 1873 at a total cost of \$20,000. Replacement cost in 2011 for a similar building would exceed \$2.5 million. Since completion, our Town Hall has seen various uses as Town offices, Police Department and a courtroom. The large front room was first occupied by Cooley's Store from 1873 to 1910 in exchange for additional land on which to build. Then the Selectboard met here for several decades and their massive, beautifully decorated safe remains along with the original parlor stove. CEDA, the Cemetery Committee and Parks and Recreation Department have since used this for office space and meetings. The large, open halls with tin ceilings, bead board wainscoting and ornate moldings have provided a warm atmosphere and ample room for Town meetings, theatrical productions, non-profit groups, as well as private celebrations and receptions.

Front Cover: The watercolor of the Town Hall by Jim Furman is used by his permission for Town Hall Committee purposes and is on permanent display in the CHS Archives.

CURRENT USE

Annually, the Town Hall is used on over 600 occasions by various non-profit organizations, fund-raising events, private parties and receptions by residents. It is the permanent meeting area of the local Rotary Club and for performances by The River Theater Company. In addition it provides storage and meeting areas for the local Boy Scout troop, our Town meetings and activities.



OUR PROJECT

To provide for the safety of all users, public and private the installation of a sprinkler and fire alarm system was completed Sept. 2012.

To ensure continued and full use by upgrading accessibility to all users.

To maintain this historic building in such a manner that it reflects our pride in our community center and realizes its potential to serve future generations.

DONATION & PLEDGE CARD

- ☐ Yes, we pledge a contribution of \$_____ to be used for the Town Hall renovations.
- ☐ Yes, we support the efforts of the Town Hall Committee and pledge assistance in the following manner:
- ☐ Planning a fundraiser through an organization_____
- ☐ We have special skills and offer our assistance_____

Our enclosed donation is:

- ☐ in memory of _____
- ☐ in honor of _____
- ☐ anonymous

Donor name_____

Mailing Address_____

Signature_____ Date_____

All donations will be used toward meeting the Town Hall renovations and may not be restricted in any manner by the Donor without the prior consent of the Town Hall Committee. Donations should be made payable to **Town Hall Committee, c/o CHS, PO Box 159, Charlestown, NH 03603.**

Donations of securities or tangible property must have the approval of the Town Hall Committee prior to acceptance.

Thank you for your assistance!

Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of IRS regulations for gifts to 501(c)(3) organizations.