

HistWick Herald

!! HistWick Boat Tour - Wednesday, August 26th !!

July 2009

Volume 6, Number 3

A Beechwood House Update by Mike Dacey

We have previously communicated the tenuous situation regarding the future of Historic Beechwood House which has served the citizens of Wickford and North Kingstown so well for over 137 years. If it is to be preserved as was originally planned and communicated to the citizens of North Kingstown when the plans for the new Senior Center were presented and when the bond funding was approved, concerned residents need to contact Town Council members and town leaders to share their concerns.

Call, write or e-mail town leaders and let them know your views. Otherwise, in my opinion, the future will either be outright demolition of this historic building, or giving Beechwood House, at no cost, to an abutting neighbor, along with up to \$100,000 of Town money to help move the building. Beechwood House would then become private property, and no longer available for use to town residents. The Town would also incur added expense to demolish and remove the additions it made to Beechwood House that would not be moved, and to clear the site and resurface the area.

I attended a recent meeting at Town Hall as a member of a small group of concerned citizens, NK Partners in Preservation, and met with the Town Manager, members of the Planning Dept, and the Chair of the Wickford Elementary School & Beechwood House Advisory Committee. At the meeting we advocated for the preservation of Beechwood House, and the need to conduct a professional architectural and engineering audit of the structure prior to any decision on the building's future. We discussed the availability of grants through Preserve Rhode Island, a branch of the RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission. We were told that if the Town Council approves an application for such a grant, the Planning department would file the grant by the July 17th deadline. This professional audit of Beechwood House would be invaluable in exploring sustainable re-use options for Beechwood House.

The historic scenic bayside panorama, for which Beechwood House holds prime responsibility, may be forever lost. Without this historic building in its present location, our Town Beach will lose its unique character and become just another Town Beach, devoid of its past. Please consider contacting our town leaders listed below to express your opinion, and the need for due diligence and this professional review prior to any decision on Beechwood House.

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Histwick is a not for profit corporation dedicated to historic preservation and community information for those interested in the village of Wickford. All dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Mike Dacey reports on the Beechwood House

Previous generations of citizens, some as members of the Main Street Association in the 1930s, made the effort, and preserved so much of Wickford. Its sense of history and inventory of authentic historic homes is what makes *Wickford, Historic*. It's time for each of us to choose to make a similar effort for those that follow.

Thank you for your time, consideration and effort.

Mike Dacey

If you choose to you can contact the Town Council members at the following addresses.

North Kingstown Town Council Members from the town web site:

[Michael S. Bestwick](mailto:mbestwick@northkingstown.org) 294-9649 mbestwick@northkingstown.org
4019 Quaker Lane

[Steven R. DeToy](mailto:sdetoy@northkingstown.org) 667-0050 sdetoy@northkingstown.org
54 Church Lane

[Elizabeth S. Dolan](mailto:Idolan@northkingstown.org) 294-9952 Idolan@northkingstown.org
145 Cassandra Lane

[Carol H. Hueston](mailto:Chueston@northkingstown.org) 294-9680 Chueston@northkingstown.org
58 Deerfield Court

[Charles H. Stamm](mailto:cstamm@northkingstown.org) 268-3922 cstamm@northkingstown.org
85 Pleasant Street

HistWick Boat Tour Scheduled

Please join with other HistWick members, neighbors and friends for an enjoyable Boat Tour of Historic Wickford harbor and nearby Narragansett Bay on Wednesday evening, August 26th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Local historian and author, Tim Cranston, will narrate our tour aboard the Sea Princess, and share his vast knowledge of Wickford, its history and landmarks... from the prospective of the shoreline and bay. The Sea Princess will depart from the pier at the foot of Main Street at 6:30 PM and return to the same location.

Wine, soft drinks and ample delectable hor'devours will be provided for the cruise.

A donation of \$40.00 per person is asked; the proceeds will be used for Historic Wickford's many projects that support our local community.

Please make your reservation by e-mailing Mike Dacey at dacey1000@verizon.net, and forward your check to Historic Wickford, PO Box 261, North Kingstown, RI 02852. Space is limited on this inaugural HistWick Boat Tour, so please respond soon.

HistWick Joins NK Chamber of Commerce

HistWick has joined the North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce. Membership in the Chamber will give HistWick the opportunity to offer several web pages promoting HistWick activities and membership through the Chamber website. HistWick will use this service to develop a range of web based information on our events along with the benefits of HistWick membership.

As soon our web pages are up and running we will notify the membership.

Celebrating New Members of HistWick

HistWick membership is the highest in several years. We would like to welcome the friends who have joined the organization this year.

Steve Detoy and Darlene Crist

Joseph and Stacey Jenkins

Lee and Bob Karwoski

Paul and Irene Romanelli

Nancy Sherman

Rollin and Elsie Whyte

David and Deirdre Wrenn

Historic Wickford, Inc. - Program Schedule 2009

August 12th - HistWick Boat Tour of Wickford Harbor and nearby Narragansett Bay

December - Tour of Wickford Holiday kitchens

December - Doors of Wickford Contest

December - Annual Holiday Potluck Supper

Historic Wickford, Inc.

P.O.Box 261

North Kingstown, RI 02852

Save the date!

HistWick Boat Tour
Wednesday Evening, August 26th
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The HistWick Herald is published three or four times a year for members of Historic Wickford Inc, and for the Wickford community. We welcome your comments and encourage HistWick members to submit articles for publication. We will print our next issue in November. Please contact Mike Donohue at 267-0104 or mdonohuework@aol.com with your ideas or articles.