
Nathan Hale Schoolhouse
East Haddam, CT


War Office
Lebanon, CT


Nathan Hale Schoolhouse
New London, CT

REAL PROPERTY REPORT

February 18, 2024

All the buildings were closed in November. Donation and Merchandise money was removed $400 was deposited in the properties checking account. We did open the War Office on December 9th for the Lebanon Christmas Tree Lighting and their 1st annual parade.

We are now at full strength of 4 members on the Property Committee. Marcus Larkin now joins Dave Jones, Mark Sheldon and myself. I have met briefly with each to go over the 2024 budget. We will get together as a group ASAP to finalize for presentation.

Looking at each building, I find many items that require maintenance, some are new and some have been placed on the back burner.

Let me begin with the schoolhouse in New London. it is good shape, but needs paint touchup, especially window sills.

The schoolhouse in East Haddam has taken a beating, weather wise and needs siding repairs with a complete paint job. I have been attempting to fix the loose threshold at the righthand entry with no success. It is time for a pro to examine the corner of the building for possible wood decay. The 50’ flagpole issue has not been resolved, the last time it was looked at was in 2019 with no action taken. The 10’ x 15’ American Flag, stored in a tote has to be ceremonially retired, it was damaged by a large family of mice. They were immediately evicted. There are 2 interpretive signs, both need work. One is in such bad shape it will require new graphics. The 3 picnic tables will need wood replacement and paint. The grave stones of General Spencer and his wife that were vandalized have not seen any action concerning repair or replacement.

As we prepare for Congress in 2025 and the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, our main focus has been with the War Office. The property perimeter cleanup has been addressed. The Town of Lebanon's First Selectman, Building Dept. and Zoning have been in contact with me and have agreed to meet with me to iron out ongoing issues that need attention.

Opening the buildings this season will be another challenge. Having enough volunteer docents is always the issue. We will ask the Nathan Hale Chapter DAR for their continued support in East Haddam. The Thames River Heritage Park Docent Academy will be meeting with me in early March. Hopefully they will be available to help in New London. The Docent Schedule will be posted on line soon and will direct volunteers and visitors to the days and hours of operation.

As you can see, we have our hands full with this ambitious undertaking. Please consider giving us a hand with this.

Respectfully submitted:
David Packard
CTSSAR Real Property Steward