

REAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

November 3, 2015

We set many goals for this past season for brick and mortar at the Museums. The main objective was the completion of the restoration work at the War Office, under the Hugh Trumbull Adams Grant. My records indicate at a cost of \$172,737.56. The work was completed in late August and items were moved from the storage trailer back to the museum on August 22nd. We remained closed for the remainder of the season except for one day, October 3rd, in order to greet visitors participating in Lebanon's annual Walktober event. The Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in New London saw the completion of the low-volume high-velocity HVAC system installed on the 1st floor and in the CTSSAR archive area in the basement. This was done through the \$10,000. grant from the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund. The only additional expense was permitting at \$182.50. We were unable to secure a grant of \$6,445. from The CT Trust and the 1772 Foundation for repairs to the windows, exterior wood trim, exterior paint, roof shingle treatment at the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in East Haddam. As reported previously, the 3 picnic tables requested were donated by a fellow compatriot.

Future plans for the museums will include; Re-applying for funds to do the work in East Haddam. Add to the list of needs in Lebanon, mainly the painting of the upstairs, the water drainage situation at the front of the building. The original plan in New London was to have the exterior shipshape for the opening of the new U.S. Coast Guard Museum directly across the street, sometime in 2016. They have delayed that project until 2020. Looking at the water damaged window sills, we have decided to apply for a grant to have this taken care of ASAP. The siding repairs and exterior paint will wait until next year.

Our visitor count this season was very good, considering only 2 of our museums were open. East Haddam saw 237 adults and 47 children. New London saw 1,705 adults, with 305 of these on the night of the Fall Food Stroll, and 380 children. All total, there were 2,369 visitors. The school group programs at all 3 properties were extremely successful due to the efforts of Bob Rivard, Debra Dickey and Gail Cooper. This added another 729 students and 144 chaperones, for a grand total of 3,242 visitors.

Merchandise did very well with total sales at \$1,225. Books were our biggest selling items, many to be restocked next year. Inventory has been taken and we have \$4,458 in resale value. Cash donations amounted to \$630.

The fall cleanup at the East Haddam property went as expected, on November 1st. Only 2 SAR volunteers and 6 Coast Guard Academy cadets, managed to put a huge dent in the underbrush

surrounding the schoolhouse. A big thank you goes to the hard working young men and women that made this possible.

The Museum days of operation were as follows; New London had 103 scheduled open days, we opened all but 1 day. The 2 paid docents worked 82 days, 1 SAR member worked 13 days, and 2 members of the Lucretia Shaw Chapter of the DAR worked 7 days. Sail Fest in New London was attended by 3 of the Nathan Hale Memorial Chapter DAR members and 1 SAR member. East Haddam had 67 scheduled open days, we were only open 35 of those days. This left 32 days closed. The Nathan Hale Memorial Chapter of the DAR covered 27 days, 2 SAR members covered 7 days and we had 1 day covered by 2 local resident volunteers.

Again, this year, I am disappointed with the turnout of SAR volunteers. We set up an online sign up calendar, with the means to connect. We announced our days and hours of operation. We will attempt to make a greater effort reaching out in the future. Our success depends on your contribution.

Respectfully submitted,

David Packard

CTSSAR Real Property Steward