

REAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

September 2, 2015

Many things have transpired since the last report. Let me begin with the War Office. Work is 99% complete with the exception of the plexiglass window coverings, phase 2 of the alarm system and landscaping, to be completed under the grants for 2015. Remaining work to the floors and upstairs will be done at a later date pending submission of future grants. This was quite an undertaking and we should thank Steve Marshall and the many contractors for their fine workmanship. We have delayed the opening until Lebanon's Walktober on October 3rd, in order to complete display layout. Even though we were closed, Bob Rivard managed to satisfy several school groups, scheduled through the Lebanon Consortium.

The 1772 Foundation Grant submitted for repairs and painting at East Haddam has been rejected and will set us back another year. We will reapply again in the near future. I am still looking for a solution to lighting the flag pole, we have not flown the Flag there all year. Another option is to remount the flags to the building. Good news, the 3 picnic tables donated by Compatriot Burt Chapman and his wife, were constructed and delivered.

Nathan Hale in New London is progressing slowly. To date the permit for the AC system has been issued and work will begin shortly. This work is within our \$10,000 Frank Loomis Palmer Fund grant, with additional permit fees falling on our properties budget. The lease with the City of New London is on hold, we are waiting for their response to our latest offer.

The Docent schedule for the remainder of the year looks rather bleak. There is only 1 person signed up in New London from Sept. 12 – Oct. 11. If we are to remain open on weekends, we will be forced to bring in our paid workers. It isn't as bad in East Haddam, but is still disappointing. Again, this year the majority of our docents have been the Daughters of the American Revolution.

There are several upcoming events worth mentioning. We have been contacted by ABC News in New York. They want to film the schoolhouse in New London with a family visiting and learning about Nathan Hale. We Have Damien Cregeau and Debra Dickey lined up to handle this on September 14th.

I have been in contact with Courtney Reardon, author of Haunted Mystic: The History Press-Haunted America Series. We spent a day visiting all 3 museums. Since then, Courtney and her husband have volunteered as docents in East Haddam. I have scheduled 3 evenings with her and her crew to investigate spirit movement at our locations. There is the possibility of a fund raiser at a later date. Courtney has assured me that her goal is within historical preservation rather than a spooky attraction.

The New London Fall Food Stroll is set for Wed. October 14th. We have been invited to open the schoolhouse for beer tasting conducted by the Charter Oak Brew Co. Pending any insurance issues it's a go.

Late this afternoon we were able to confirm 7 school group visits in New London from late September through October. Our paid docents have already committed to assist.

It has been presented before the Committee that we should celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the CTSSAR in July of 2016. We will be seeking ideas and volunteers.

To date we are within budget. There have been a few added expenses due to repairs and operating costs increases. Docent expenses are lower, mainly because we are down from five to two.

Our long time Property Committee member, Burt Chapman has submitted his resignation on the Properties Committee, but will remain as a Docent. For his dedication, Burt was awarded the CTSSAR Meritorious Service Medal and Certificate. To fill his vacancy, Damien Cregeau volunteered and was approved by the Committee and received the approval of President Ethan Stewart.

Just a few words about the 125th Capital Campaign. Although it was a great idea funding our Manross Fund, it never gained the momentum required to sustain the effort. Therefore, I suggest that we suspend this endeavor and head in another direction.

On August 22nd Real Property Committee members and several Board of Manager members, with guests moved museum contents from the storage container back into the War Office. After a short break, we conducted a Real Property Committee Meeting. (Minutes to follow) I would like to express my sincere thanks to all that made the move run smoothly.

Respectfully submitted,

David Packard

CTSSAR Real Property Steward