

Northborough Historical Society Annual Report



2024 ~ 2025

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Cover photo by Norm Corbin

MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

May 17, 2024

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Mike Duchesneau, immediately following the regular meeting. There were 46 members in attendance.

Minutes from the May 19, 2023 Annual Meeting were accepted as read.

Treasurer Dale Williams went through the Annual Treasurer's report as published in the Annual Report. Bob van Buren proposed, Rick Ferenchick seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Bob van Buren from the Legislative Committee explained that there is a contradiction in the by-laws regarding the formation of the Finance Committee. To fix this the Legislative Committee proposed the following by-law change.

Current Wording

Article IV, Section 6, H, Finance, 1. Page 9

"The Finance Committee Shall consist of three members, each serving a three-year term, with one elected annually, plus the Vice-President, who shall be chairperson, and the Treasurer who shall be ex-officio with vote."

Proposed Wording

Article IV, Section 6, H, Finance, 1. Page 9

"The Finance Committee Shall consist of three members, each serving a three-year term, plus the Vice-President, who shall be chairperson, and the Treasurer who shall be ex-officio with vote."

Hilary Wilson proposed, Henry Squillante seconded the following amendment to the by-law amendment.

Proposed Amended Amendment Wording

Article IV, Section 6, H, Finance, 1. Page 9

"The Finance Committee Shall consist of three members, each serving a three-year term, with one appointed annually, plus the Vice-President, who shall be chairperson, and the Treasurer who shall be ex-officio with vote."

This amendment would add wording that would maintain the 3-year cycle of committee members. After some discussion and with the agreement of the Legislative Committee, the vote to amend the amendment carried unanimously.

The amendment to the by-laws carried unanimously.

Hilary Wilson read the list of nominations for officers, board members and committee members as published in the Annual Report. There being no nominations from the floor, a motion was proposed and seconded that the secretary cast a single ballot for the slate of officers. The motion carried unanimously.

The organizational meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday June 14, 2024, followed by an Applefest meeting.

Hilary Wilson announced that the Board would like to award honorary membership to Jean Langley. Hilary spoke in praise of Jean's outstanding service to the Society, thus justifying the award. The membership expressed their approval with a long, resounding round of applause. Mike Duchesneau presented Jean with her certificate of Honorary Membership and a bouquet of flowers.

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Wilson, Recording Secretary

Proposed by-law amendment to be voted on by the members at the Annual Meeting to be held on May 16, 2025.

Proposed Amendments to By-Laws Concerning Building Rentals

The Board, along with an ad hoc Rentals Committee, has spent some considerable time reviewing all aspects of our building rental policy. Going forward the Board is proposing to handle rentals differently than we have done in the past. These changes should create a more streamlined rental process. The following by-law amendments are needed to enable these changes.

Current Wording

ARTICLE IV - ELECTED OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES, NEWSLETTER EDITOR, OTHER PERSONNEL, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 6. Standing Committees

D. Property

5. Shall annually review the policy of rentals and specific fees for use of the Society facilities, and shall submit recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval by August 1. Rentals to individuals will be restricted to members only (approved by Board of Directors May 1995).
6. Shall delegate authority to the custodian to:
 - a. Inform renters of fees according to the approved rental policy
 - b. Approve all applications and make necessary arrangements with the party of the rental.
 - c. Shall exercise judgment in meeting requests, or in situations that are extraordinary, obtain approval of the Board of Directors
 - Uses that may have a detrimental effect on the property;
 - Groups or individuals that formerly used facilities and problems occurred;
 - Requests for uses involving sales; rentals of the facilities on a repeated basis during the year.

Proposed Wording

ARTICLE IV - ELECTED OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES, NEWSLETTER EDITOR, OTHER PERSONNEL, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 6. Standing Committees

D. Property

5. Shall annually review the policy of rentals and specific fees for use of the Society facilities, and shall submit recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval by August 1. *Society members and non-profit organizations shall receive a discounted rental rate.*
6. Shall delegate authority to the *Rental Coordinator* to:
 - a. Inform renters of fees according to the approved rental policy
 - b. Approve all applications and make necessary arrangements with the party of the rental.
 - c. Shall exercise judgment in meeting requests, or in situations that are extraordinary, obtain approval of the Board of Directors
 - Uses that may have a detrimental effect on the property;
 - Groups or individuals that formerly used facilities and problems occurred;
 - Requests for uses involving sales; rentals of the facilities on a repeated basis during the year.

Current Wording

ARTICLE 5 - TERMS OF OFFICE

- E. Newsletter Editor. The Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to an indefinite term.

Proposed Wording

ARTICLE 5 - TERMS OF OFFICE

E.

1. Newsletter Editor. The Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to an indefinite term.
2. Rental Coordinator. *The Rental Coordinator shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to an indefinite term.*

Submitted by the Legislative Committee: Bob Van Buren ▪ Jean Langley ▪ Hilary Wilson

Proposed by-law amendment to be voted on by the members at the Annual Meeting to be held on May 16, 2025.

Proposed Amendment to By-Laws Concerning Nominations

The time frame and procedure in the current by-laws makes it difficult for the Nominating Committee report to be checked for conformance to the by-laws in time to meet the deadline for notification to the membership. This amendment will get the report directly to the holders of the records needed to check conformance earlier in the process.

Current Wording

ARTICLE VI - ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS, RESIGNATIONS AND TERMINATIONS FROM OFFICE OR COMMITTEE

Section 2. Nominations

- B. A slate to fill vacant and expiring positions shall be prepared by the Nominating Committee and submitted to the Board of Directors by April 1 for review to ensure that all candidates are paid active members and that the slate is otherwise in conformance with these by-laws.
- C. The slate with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall be presented to the Society one month before the Annual Meeting by presentation at the April meeting of the Society and by posting on the society website and in The Hourglass.

Proposed Wording

ARTICLE VI - ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS, RESIGNATIONS AND TERMINATIONS FROM OFFICE OR COMMITTEE

Section 2. Nominations

- B. A slate to fill vacant and expiring positions shall be prepared by the Nominating Committee and submitted to the Board of Directors, *and to the Membership Secretary and the Recording Secretary* by April 1 for review to ensure that all candidates are paid active members and that the slate is otherwise in conformance with these by-laws.
- C. The slate shall be presented to the Society one month before the Annual Meeting by presentation at the April meeting of the Society and by posting on the society website and in The Hourglass.

Submitted by the Legislative Committee: Bob Van Buren ▪ Jean Langley ▪ Hilary Wilson

Nominating Committee Report

Underlined names are submitted to be voted on at the May 16, 2025 Annual Meeting

| Position | Person | Term Ends |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| President | <u>Ken Bennett</u> | 2026 |
| Vice President | <u>Rob Van Buren</u> | 2026 |
| Directors | Zenya Molnar | 2026 |
| | Alex Molnar | 2026 |
| | <u>Janice Ferenchick</u> | 2027 |
| | <u>Mike Duchesneau</u> | 2027 |
| | <u>Chuck Liljestrand</u> | 2028 |
| | <u>Mark Bashour</u> | 2028 |
| Treasurer | Nadine Proctor | 2027 |
| Membership Secretary | Jean Langley | 2027 |
| Recording Secretary | Hilary Wilson | 2027 |
| Museum Trustees | Carol Bostock | 2026 |
| | Linda Corbin | 2026 |
| | Jane Fletcher | 2027 |
| | Kathy Pierce | 2027 |
| | <u>Lynne Derosier</u> | 2028 |
| | <u>Allyn Phelps Jr</u> | 2028 |
| Publicity | Hilary Wilson | 2026 |
| | Zenya Molnar | 2027 |
| | Alex Molnar | 2027 |
| | <u>Laura Ziton</u> | 2028 |
| | Cindy Atwood | 2026 |
| Hospitality | Marcia Parsneau | 2027 |
| | <u>Carolyn Squillante</u> | 2028 |

| Position | Person | Term Ends |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Program | Nadine Proctor | 2026 |
| | Suzanne Williams | 2027 |
| | <u>Arlene Marshall</u> | 2028 |
| | <u>Jodie Martinson</u> | 2028 |
| Property | Paul Derosier | 2026 |
| | Rob Van Buren | 2027 |
| | Peter Stone | 2027 |
| Kitchen | Jane Fletcher | 2026 |
| | Marcia Mills | 2027 |
| | <u>Debra Bennett</u> | 2028 |
| Legislative | Jean Langley | 2026 |
| | Hilary Wilson | 2027 |
| | <u>Michael Mills</u> | 2028 |
| Nominating | <u>Mike Duchesneau</u> | 2026 |
| | <u>Ernie Racine</u> | 2026 |
| | <u>Rhonda Van Buren</u> | 2026 |
| Ways and Means | Henry Squillante | 2026 |
| | Marie Spence | 2027 |
| | John Northgraves | 2027 |
| | <u>Mark Bashour</u> | 2028 |

Submitted by the Nominating Committee Rick Ferenchick ▪ Carol Bostock ▪ Carolyn Squillante

President's Report 2024 - 2025

This report, my final as president, is a summary of our past year highlights and the members who have contributed to our success. Our membership remains stable with over 100 members and we continue to gain in popularity as evidenced by our recent April meeting, attended by over 100 people. Our monthly meetings, that include a speaker presentation, were well attended. The topics ranged from astronomy, Frances Perkins (the first woman Secretary of Labor), local beaver habitat, early local railroads, the work performed by the local United States Geological Survey (USGS) office in Northborough, the architecture of the White Cliffs mansion, Northborough's volunteers in the Revolutionary War and Bucky Lew, the first black professional basketball player.

Additionally, we continued our on-going effort to maintain our 165-year-old building. Recently, with support from an American Rescue Plan Act grant from the Town of Northborough, we renovated the ceiling and painted the walls of our Meeting Room. Shortly, thereafter, to the delight of our membership, we replaced our old folding chairs with new, padded seats. The purchase of the upgraded chairs was made possible through a grant from the State of Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Another highlight of the past year was the organ recital with our 1874 George Stevens Pipe Organ. The recital, open to the public, was performed by organist, Robin Jubenville, and included the vocal soloist, Robyn Tarantino. A highlight of the recital was music written by a well-known Northborough resident John William Kellette (1875-1922). Mr. Kellette was a songwriter, composer and actor, who wrote the popular song "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles". This song was one of several of his songs played at the organ recital. The event was well-attended and highlighted another historical asset of the Society.

We continued to have a strong presence at the town-wide Applefest celebration in September, 2024. We intend to continue our tradition of selling homemade root beer at Blake Street, and root beer-ice cream floats at our building on Main Street, as we have done for the past several years.

We recently updated our accounting system to an on-line financial platform called WAVE. This system provides the Society with the ability to track income and our costs. Additionally, we can perform queries of the WAVE accounting system that permits recall of accurate financial information to understand our financial picture. The system also provides valuable support for the preparation of our annual tax forms. Our largest single expense continues to be oil. This expense was over \$1,000 higher than the previous year and will likely continue to be a major expense in the future since the building is not insulated.

The vibrancy of our organization is a reflection of our members, who volunteer both time and financial resources in support. I am optimistic that we can continue to increase our memberships in order to maintain our organization.

Several members deserve recognition for their efforts this past year.

Of particular note, Janice Ferencick, as Vice President, has been the person that I rely on for advice and support. It has been my good fortune to have her as my Vice President.

I need to also thank Nadine Proctor, our Treasurer, who oversees our day-to-day financial health.

President's Report, continued

Nadine and I have worked together to understand and utilize our new financial bookkeeping system. I am grateful for her support and her focus on monitoring our finances.

Our Property Committee deserves a special thank-you. Chuck Liljestrand, who managed the restoration, Paul Derosier, Bob Van Buren and Peter Stone deserve special recognition for the restoration of the ceiling and painting in the Meeting Room. The project was successfully completed on-time and within budget. Also, a big thank-you goes to Chuck who managed the purchase of our new, padded seats. The Meeting Room has never looked so good. Chuck and Paul are our unsung heroes. They perform so many key tasks that go unnoticed. To mention a few, they provide oversight of our renters, open and close the building for every meeting and respond in the middle of the night when the fire alarm goes off. They are currently working on repairing a broken window in the Museum. It has been my good fortune to be able to get to know them. I look forward to working with them in the coming year.

A big shout out of thanks goes to the Recording Secretary, Hilary Wilson, for her outstanding meeting record keeping. This is not an easy task and it has been performed with a high degree of accuracy. Hilary should also be recognized for her efforts to publish the monthly Hourglass and the Annual Report. A special thank-you goes out to Geoff Wilson for maintaining our Website. Both the Hourglass and the Website are easy ways to keep our members and visitors informed as to our on-going activities.

Thanks to Lois VandeKopple for her work maintaining our historical home inventory on Facebook. I understand there are over two-hundred historical homes from Northborough identified in this inventory. Thanks to Lois for her steadfast effort in maintaining this resource and her on-going support of our Society.

The Society Archive is maintained by Ellen Racine. She has done another outstanding job in categorizing and maintaining the Archive. We continue to receive important historical artifacts from former residents of Northborough.

Thanks to Norm Corbin, our current Historian. Norm has been active in the Northborough Revolution 250 committee that commemorates the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

The Program Committee, consisting of Suzanne Williams, Cathy Duchesneau, Nadine Proctor, assisted by Janice Ferenchick, have done a terrific job in making our speaker program so successful. We continue to win grants from the Northborough Cultural Council Grants to schedule professional speakers.

In closing, I am optimistic that next year will be even better and our membership will continue to grow. I thank all those who have supported our organization in both time and money and am proud to be a member of the Northborough Historical Society.

Mike Duchesneau

President, Northborough Historical Society

Recording Secretary's Report 2024 - 2025

The Board of Directors met the second Tuesday of every month starting in September 2024. They do not meet in December. The meeting in November was held on Zoom due to the ceiling work, and in February and March due to flu / Covid concerns. Three special board meetings were held on June 28, 2024, July 31, 2024, and May 7, 2025 to discuss urgent issues.

The minutes and reports from the Treasurer, Board of Trustees, and various committees were sent in advance by e-mail, so that the Directors could spend their meeting time on discussions. Each person still had a place on the agenda so that they could make updates to their reports or take questions.

Membership meetings took place every month on the fourth Friday of the month, except for the meeting for November / December, which is held on the first Friday evening in December, and the May meeting which is held early to avoid Memorial Day weekend.

The minutes, Treasurer's Report, Trustees Report, Curator's Report, Historian's Report, and committee reports were read. Each meeting was followed by a program

Main topics of discussion and motions were as follows:

- The appointment of a new Treasurer
- The Annual Appeal
- Security improvement for the archive
- Problems with rental procedures
- The formation of a rental subcommittee to examine the current rental policies and procedures and make recommendations for improvement
- The ARPA funding grant from the Town and deciding on a project to use the funds
- The ceiling and lighting project
- Windows repair / restoration
- Problems with, and options for, financial record keeping
- Whether we need a further breakdown of donation categories to have more information about where our donations are coming from
- Whether to accept a donation of property from a member
- Hosting the REV 250 webpage on the Society website
- Improving publicity for programs and events
- Tax filings
- Evaluating the stock to bonds ratio in our Vanguard accounts
- Fundraising ideas including raffles, breakfasts, and selling Society merchandise
- The purchase of new chairs for the meeting room
- By-law changes
- Organ tuning and organ recitals
- Whether to host a brief visit from the Marquis de Lafayette, organized by American Friends of Lafayette
- Reviewing the Nominating Committee report and the budget

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Wilson, Recording Secretary

Membership Secretary's Report 2024 - 2025

We are happy to see that at the end of April, we had 136 members. Last year at this time we had 128. Eight of them are new members, so welcome!

Among these members we have 33 Life Members and 17 Honorary Members. Life members are those who have made a one-time \$500 payment (per person), and who no longer have to pay annual dues. Honorary Members have been nominated by the Board of Directors and approved by a vote of the Membership.

Membership renewals trickle in during the year, but our actual membership year starts in September and is not based on your membership anniversary date. If you're wondering whether you've renewed your membership for the current year, you can check your issue of the Hour-glass newsletter. There is usually a box that states "If there is a red dot in this box, it is time to renew your membership." And you can always check at the Membership Table when you come to a program. Inquiries can also be sent to:

MembershipSecretary@NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

This year e-mails also went out mid-year to people whose memberships had lapsed. Thank you to those who responded in a timely manner! Even if you are not always able to come to our meetings and programs, your membership dues help keep the Society running!! And did you know that paid members can rent the Historical Society meeting room for family gatherings or small meetings? New procedures will be discussed at our annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Langley

Membership Secretary

Kitchen Committee Annual Report 2024 - 2025

The committee meets once a month, spending approximately 2 hours cleaning the refrigerator, the microwave, cooktops, sinks, washing floors and sanitizing kitchen surfaces. The remaining cleaning is done, as needed, according to the Kitchen Checklist.

The committee will continue to meet over the summer due to building usage during those months. As of this date, the kitchen is ready for use as scheduled.

Jane Fletcher, Marcia Mills, Rhonda Van Buren

Kitchen Committee

Museum Trustees Report 2024 - 2025

The vital duty of maintaining and operating our extensive museum and archives demands the work of many hands. As usual, those willing hands came forward this past year to help in a variety of ways. The slate of six museum trustees met monthly to discuss and direct museum operations. Still other members hosted on museum opening days or assisted with research and record-keeping in the archives. Sprucing up the museum in preparation for spring and fall openings called for still more hands.

Among the issues discussed by the board were improving access to the second-level museum, creating a video tour for people who cannot get up the stairs, and finding more storage space for our growing collection.

Lining up hosts for museum opening hours is another board responsibility. We thank our board secretary Carol Bostock for her diligent effort in fulfilling that duty, as well as the society members who stepped in to help. Serving as museum hosts in 2024 were: Ken Bennett, Carol Bostock, Paul and Lynne Derosier, Norm and Linda Corbin, Forest and Diane Lyford, Jane Fletcher, Jean Langley, Allyn Phelps, Ellen and Ernie Racine, Lana Ingerslev, Lois Smith, Jodie Martinson, Kathy Pierce, Ingrid Molnar, Mark Bashour, Jan Wright, Marcia Parsneau, Carolyn Squillante, Jo-Ann Sullivan, Diane Rollins, Cindy and Dick Atwood, Suzanne and Dale Williams, and Valerie Kennedy.

Museum attendance was particularly robust on Applefest weekend in September with 197 visitors signing in. This compares to 139 in 2023 and 112 in 2022. Many commented that it was their first time visiting and were impressed with our collection.

We would like to thank also our dedicated curator Ellen Racine for the countless hours spent organizing the archive and museum collection for the current and future benefit of the community. We also commend society historian Norm Corbin who, by digging deeply, has unearthed some little-known facts regarding Northborough's life and times during the American Revolution.

Of note in our volunteer recruitment this year was the offer by several Algonquin Regional High School students to undertake assignments of our choosing as part of their educational agenda. Ellen and Norm are working with the students to select the topics. Many thanks for spearheading that task.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Fletcher and Kathy Pierce, co-chairpersons, and Trustees Carol Bostock, Linda Corbin, Lynne Derosier, and Allyn Phelps Jr.

Curator's Annual Report 2024 - 25

With the nice spring weather returning, people are out and about. The Archive was a goal of several with a new record of six curious visitors within the 13 x 24' vault. Most of the requests are for family history or houses and streets. Business gets more exciting when donations are presented along with great accounts of town or family history.

Visits outside of Northborough included a visit to the Harvard Historical Society where they also have a George Stevens tracker organ (1870, ours is 1874) and a young organist who keeps it in good condition. We also made a trip to the Grafton Historical Society for their monthly tea and pastries inside their great museum. Nancy Therrien, President, later visited our museum and donated a painting of our Unitarian Church.

Another "visit" was a ZOOM lecture on *Archives and the Small Museum* organized by Dale Magee. Nicholas Webb gave a great presentation and offered suggestions of many topics. Our work of scanning and digitizing is slow, catching up from 1906. I am thankful that several volunteers have come forward to help out: Diane Rollins, Theresa Lindberg-Riga and Jo-Ann Sullivan. They will be working on diaries, and scanning documents and greeting the school children.

I have updated and digitized Bob Ellis's "Guide to the Archive" that he compiled in 1997. It lists sources for researching persons and houses, a subject index to the room, and contents of legal and blue-print file cabinets. Also included is a list of Newspapers, from 1874 to 1980s.

Last June, Robin Jubenville organist and singer Robyn Tarantino entertained some 35 guests for an organ concert. The June Art Show had 36 visitors, Applefest for two days had 197 guests and 42 students from Zeh School viewed the museum under Janice Ferenchick's leadership.

It's time to celebrate – The Revolution's 250th Anniversary with Norm Corbin and Lois Smith in charge! Diane Lyford and I spent time working with photographer Michael Roman on the Witness House photo exhibit. The Costume Department, consisting of Carol Bostock Cindy Atwood, Lois Smith and me, has been busy replicating and refitting Colonial clothing for upcoming events. The Minutemen were dressed with funds from ARPA. Algonquin H. S. seniors have volunteered to help in cleaning the museum and working on a display case in the foyer.

Donations: Northborough Library has downsized its history room and donated 3 - 4 boxes of our history, bound copies of annual reports, Mark Fidrych books and news articles, Joseph Henry Allen writings from 1870-1880, and genealogies of Northborough families. Allen Proctor donated Northborough High School diplomas from 1931 of Bertha Coskie Proctor and Dave G. Proctor. He will send photos of their homes and also samples of buttons from the Proctor Button and Comb Shop. Ann Wynn donated a WWII uniform of Floyd Woodcock and wedding gown of his wife Marjorie Terrill 1945. Both are now on display.

My thanks to all in the Society who volunteer and work hard
to save our Town's history.

Ellen M. Racine, Curator

Historian Annual Report 2024 - 2025

First, I am honored to be selected as the new Historian. It will be a challenge to provide the same quality of information as my predecessors Bob Ellis, Kathy Pierce, and Ken Bennett.

One major highlight for the year includes a visit from the Fay family, who travelled from Idaho and Washington State to learn about their ancestor from the Boroughs communities. They visited the archives and were both thrilled and surprised by the information we had available for them. Their appreciation resulted in a \$200.00 donation to the Society. We also had inquiries about Smallpox during the Revolutionary War, the Northborough Civil Defense System during the Cold War, and we supplied photographs to the Salmon Health and Retirement Community at Whitney Place as they celebrate their 25 years of operation in Northborough. All in all, a very interesting list of inquiries.

My first four *Hourglass* articles highlighted the indigenous people and animals that lived on our lands from 14,000 years ago until the settlement in Plymouth. It surprised me how much information there is in technical journals about the excavations of ancient sites within the Boroughs communities. The settlement of our lands by the early English colonists to current day is about 400 years; this is negligible compared to the length of time this region was inhabited by the indigenous peoples. Three subsequent articles were about Northborough's role in the American Revolutionary War, a topic of particular interest considering it is the 250th year of our war for independence. I continue to write six Northborough History articles per year for the Community Advocate.

Finally, with the nation commemorating 250 years since our independence from Britain, a "*Northborough Revolution 250 Committee*" was formed. I am the Chairperson of the committee which has thirteen members coming from different organizations within town. Three well attended events have already been held. One highlighted the 27 "Witness Houses" that remain in town from the Revolutionary War period. A program at the Historical Society highlighted the involvement of the Northborough Community in the war and a week later, a reenactment of the departure of Northborough's Minutemen to fight in Lexington & Concord took place. The recent passage of funding for our committee at town meeting will allow us to continue planning commemorative events over the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Corbin

Hospitality Committee Report 2024 - 2025

We had a fine year with nice programs and good attendance. Many people helped in bringing refreshments including Marcia Parsneau, and Cindy and Dick Atwood. . Ellen Racine was kind enough to supply the coffee service. People seemed to enjoy staying awhile, enjoying the refreshments and sharing some time together.

Respectfully submitted, Debra Bennett, Hospitality Committee Chair

Property Committee Annual Report 2024 - 2025

We had a very productive year!

- Normal business of required maintenance, permits, and annual inspections were done.
- The kitchen wall was insulated to try and stop pipes freezing in winter. The project was successful as we had no frozen water pipes this year.
- An in-house drop off box for mail and receipts was installed.
- We took out of storage an 1889 Jim Marston hand powered table saw (of local provenance), cleaned and made skids for it and it is now on display.
- We were very fortunate to receive through the town, ARPA funds to replace the meeting room ceiling and install LED lighting.
- Our own crew refurbished the walls, the floor, and the woodwork.
- New chairs were purchased for the meeting room, using funds from a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant received in a previous year.
- The committee is donating a new flag for the front.

Respectfully submitted

Paul Derosier, Peter Stone, Bob VanBuren, Chuck Liljestrand
Property Committee

Program Committee Annual Report 2024 - 2025

Every year the Program Committee works diligently to provide members of the Society and Northborough's community with a diverse educational experience focusing on history and incorporating as much as possible how it related to or influenced Northborough's past. Topics ranged from astronomy, the environmental impact of water, railroad, architecture, the American Revolution, and the first black professional basketball player. This year the NHS had an opportunity to collaborate with the Northborough Public Library when they each hosted one of a two-part performance of Frances Perkins, the first woman appointed to the U.S. cabinet. Next year's programming promises another year of diverse historical information through talented speakers.

In closing, we extend out heartfelt gratitude our to members and volunteers whose support and enthusiasm have been instrumental in making this year's programs a success.

Suzanne Williams, Cathy Duchesneau, and Nadine Proctor
Program Committee

Publicity Committee Annual Report 2024 - 2025

- Volunteers posted program flyers produced by the Membership team throughout town and beyond to advertise Northborough Historical Society events and monthly programs.
- Carolyn Squillante continued to send timely reminders about programs to the Northborough Historical Society distribution list.
- 300 brochures produced by the Membership team were distributed at meetings and events such as Applefest. Brochures are always displayed in the Historical Society building for anyone attending non-Society events to take. In addition to membership information, the brochure contains details about the Museum, Archives, and monthly programs. QR codes are on display in the building and at events to be scanned to download the brochure.
- Word of mouth, email, text, and social media are powerful tools for publicity. We welcome members to share flyers and information with friends, family, and colleagues who may be interested in a particular program or event.
- Laura Ziton, Ken Bennett, and Lois Smith posted about programs, events, and other pertinent Historical Society information on the Northborough Historical Society Facebook page. In addition, Lois and Laura continued to post historical sites of interest each week.
- Program and event information has been kept up to date on our website, which has a new Northborough Revolution 250 page. Thanks to Geoff Wilson for taking on the increased workload.
- We are looking to expand our outreach to reach new audiences through new avenues of social media and printed media. The Northborough Lions sign will no longer be available to advertise events. The Publicity Committee looks forward to brainstorming ideas to execute come fall 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Molnar, Zenya Molnar, Carolyn Squillante, and Hilary Wilson

Finance Committee Annual Report 2024 - 2025

The Finance Committee did not convene separately during the 2024–2025 fiscal year. However, committee members attended several Board of Directors (BOD) meetings, where they provided input on financial matters as needed. One key discussion focused on the balance of fixed versus variable investments in the society’s portfolio. After deliberation, the Board decided to defer any changes, concluding that the current allocation was appropriate given the society's risk appetite and the market volatility experienced since January.

The primary financial expenditure during this period was the ceiling repair project, which was funded by an ARPA grant. All decisions related to this project were discussed and fully approved by the Board.

Additionally, the committee supported the Treasurer’s decision to transition the Society’s financial record-keeping to the Wave Accounting software platform.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Janice Ferencick, and members Henry Squillante, Lois Smith, Ingrid Molnar and Nadine Proctor.

Annual Treasurer's Report May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

| For the Year End April 30, 2025 | | |
|--|--|--------------------|
| INCOME: | | |
| ARPA Grant – Ceiling Repair | | \$21,000.00 |
| Dues | | \$1,310.00 |
| Donations | | \$12,844.54 |
| Applefest Expenses (includes redeposit of cashbox float)) | | \$1,876.58 |
| Museum Sales and Donations | | \$97.50 |
| Other Sales | | \$280.00 |
| Rental Income | | \$4,570.00 |
| Grant – Programs Public Support | | \$300.00 |
| Misc Revenue | | \$274.73 |
| Vanguard Investment Income | | \$3,258.15 |
| Total Income | | \$45,811.50 |
| EXPENSES: | | |
| Grant Expenses | | |
| Ceiling Repair (paid from ARPA Grant) | | \$21,000.00 |
| Chairs (paid from previous year MA Cultural Council Grant) | | \$2,441.32 |
| Total Grant Expenses | | \$23,441.32 |
| Utilities | | |
| Electric | | \$1,285.18 |
| Water/Sewer | | \$416.22 |
| Oil | | \$6,356.68 |
| Propane | | \$113.40 |
| Phone/Internet | | \$1,683.01 |
| Total Utilities | | \$9,854.49 |
| Buildings and Grounds | | |
| Security and Fire Alarm | | \$1,617.30 |
| Sprinkler Maintenance and Repair | | \$1,294.74 |
| Insurance – Property | | \$3,495.00 |
| Maintenance/Repair | | \$1,446.29 |
| Total Buildings and Grounds | | \$7,853.33 |
| Other Expenses | | |
| Applefest (includes withdrawal for cashbox float) | | \$1,208.69 |
| Fund Raising Raffle | | \$60.99 |
| Museum Expenses | | \$50.00 |
| Museum Expense – Organ Recital/Maintenance | | \$1,683.75 |
| PO Box Rental | | \$151.00 |
| Fees and Taxes | | \$50.19 |
| Programs- Speaker Fees and Costs | | \$200.00 |
| Hourglass and Brochures | | \$413.80 |
| Web Site Maintenance | | \$243.04 |
| Historian Stipend | | \$911.85 |
| Reimbursement (Historian) | | \$34.89 |
| Misc (Not Specified) | | \$1,505.24 |
| Total Other Expenses | | \$6,513.44 |
| Total Expenses | | \$47,662.58 |
| Net Loss | | -\$1,851.08 |

Annual Treasurer's Report May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025 (continued)

| Balance Sheet (Statement of Financial Position) | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| | | |
| | <u>04/30/24</u> | <u>04/30/25</u> |
| <u>ASSET:</u> | | |
| Cash | \$12,640.08 | \$7,533.15 |
| Investments – Vanguard | \$61,754.51 | \$65,010.29 |
| Land Value | \$200,000.00 | \$200,000.00 |
| Building is Fully Depreciated | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| NHS Balance | \$274,394.59 | \$272,543.44 |
| | | |
| | | |
| <u>Income Statement for the Year Ended April 30, 2025</u> | | |
| Income | | \$45,811.50 |
| Expense | | \$47,662.58 |
| Net Loss | | -\$1,851.08 |
| | | |
| NHS Balance Start of Year | | \$274,394.59 |
| NHS Balance End of Year | | \$272,543.44 |

Society Budget for 2025 - 2026

| PROJECTED INCOME | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|----------------|--|
| | Applefest | \$2,000 | | | | | |
| | Donations - Total | \$13,500 | | | | | |
| | Grant for Programs | \$400 | | | | | |
| | Membership Dues | \$1,400 | | | | | |
| | Museum Donations | \$100 | | | | | |
| | Museum Sales | \$300 | | | | | |
| | Rental | \$5,000 | | | | | |
| | Vanguard | \$6,000 | | | | | |
| PROJECTED INCOME SUBTOTAL | | \$28,700 | | | | | |
| | Contingency 10% | \$2,870 | | | | | |
| PROJECTED INCOME TOTAL | | \$31,570 | | | | | |
| PROJECTED EXPENSES | | | | | | | |
| UTILITIES | | | BUILDING and GROUNDS | | | | |
| | National Grid Electric | \$1,300 | | Insurance Property | | \$3,650 | |
| | Oil | \$6,600 | | Security/Alarm | | \$1,700 | |
| | Phone/Internet | \$1,750 | | Snow Plowing | | \$500 | |
| | Propane | \$100 | | Supplies | | \$400 | |
| | Water/Sewer | \$450 | | Maintenance & Repair | | \$2,500 | |
| TOTAL UTILITIES | | \$10,200 | TOTAL BUILDING and GROUNDS | | | \$8,750 | |
| MUSEUM EXPENSES | | | PROGRAM EXPENSES | | | | |
| | Archival Supplies | \$400 | | Programs | | \$850 | |
| | Curators Stipend | \$1,000 | | Refreshments | | \$250 | |
| | Events/Education/Supplies | \$600 | | | | | |
| | Historian Stipend | \$1,000 | | | | | |
| | Organ Maintenance | \$1,000 | | | | | |
| | Organist | \$350 | | | | | |
| | Restorations | \$800 | | | | | |
| PROJECTED MUSEUM | | \$5,150 | PROJECTED PROGRAM | | | \$1,100 | |
| SOCIETY EXPENSES | | | | | | | |
| | Applefest | \$1,120 | | | | | |
| | Fees & Taxes | \$50 | | | | | |
| | Fund Raising | \$100 | | | | | |
| | Hourglass & Brochures | \$450 | | | | | |
| | Misc. | \$1,250 | | | | | |
| | PO Box | \$350 | | | | | |
| | Web | \$250 | | | | | |
| PROJECTED SOCIETY'S TOTAL | | \$3,570 | | | | | |
| PROJECTED EXPENSE SUBTOTAL | | | \$28,770 | | | | |
| | Contingency 10% | | \$2,800 | | | | |
| PROJECTED EXPENSES TOTAL | | | \$31,570 | | | | |

Society Members 2024 - 2025

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Richard and Cindy Atwood Northborough, MA | Mitch and Alysa Cohen Northborough, MA | Kathleen Howland Northborough, MA |
| John and Fran Bakstran Northborough, MA | Normand and Linda Corbin Northborough, MA | David Hunt Northborough, MA |
| David Backus Northborough, MA | Andrew Curtis Northborough, MA | Hank and Ann Jakiela Washington, DC |
| Jenifer Kahn Bakkala Northborough, MA | Catherine Daniels Northborough, MA | Valerie Kennedy Northborough, MA |
| Jody Barnard W. Boylston, MA | Roy and Carole David Northborough, MA | Mary Kennerly Westborough, MA |
| Mark Bashour Northborough, MA | Kathy and Bruce deGraaf Northborough, MA | Nancy Kimball Berlin, MA |
| Ken and Debra Bennett Northborough, MA | Paul and Lynne Derosier Northborough, MA | Chuck and Beryl Krouse Northborough, MA |
| Rob Berger Northborough, MA | Michael and Catherine Duchesneau Northborough, MA | Jean Langley Boylston, MA |
| Steve Bernacki Northborough, MA | Christine Ellis Northborough, MA | Darrell Lemmerman Northborough, MA |
| Allan Bezanson Southborough, MA | Janice and Richard Ferenchick Northborough, MA | Fred Leroy New Lexington, OH |
| Frank and Judy Bissett Northborough, MA | Alexandra Fleischman Northborough, MA | Melissa LeSage Northborough, MA |
| Carol Bostock Westborough, MA | Jane Fletcher Northborough, MA | Robert Licht Northborough, MA |
| Sue and Arthur Boucher Boylston, MA | Charles Frankian Northborough, MA | Chuck Liljestrand Northborough, MA |
| Paul and Janine Brueggemann Shrewsbury, MA | Jane Gasek Berlin, MA | Terry Lindberg-Riga Northborough, MA |
| Helen Calverley Northborough, MA | Bruce Goldsmith Northborough, MA | Thomas Lowe and Jane Pond Shrewsbury, MA |
| Peter and Rae Carlsen Northborough, MA | Matthew Goodwin Northborough, MA | Forest and Diane Lyford Northborough, MA |
| Kevin Carroll Summerville, SC | Susan Goyette Northborough, MA | Melanie and Dale Magee Shrewsbury, MA |
| Janet and Ron Cason Northborough, MA | Dorothy Higano Westborough, MA | Arlene and Steven Marshall Northborough, MA |
| Patricia A. Cassidy Newport, RI | Julianne Hirsh Northborough, MA | Jodie Martinson Shrewsbury, MA |

Society Members 2024 - 2025, continued

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Renee McCue-Hall Leicester, MA | Allyn Phelps III Northborough, MA | Peter Stone Northborough, MA |
| Joyce McNeil Framingham, MA | Allyn Phelps Jr. Northborough, MA | Jo-Ann Sullivan Northborough, MA |
| Amanda Millette Northborough, MA | Kathy Pierce Natick, MA | Brian Swanson Northborough, MA |
| Grace Millette Northborough, MA | Patty Hogan and Paul Polewacyk Berlin, MA | Kimberly Thomas Northborough, MA |
| Michael and Marcia Mills Northborough, MA | Nadine Proctor Northborough, MA | Robert and Rhonda Van Buren Northborough, MA |
| Millie Milton Northborough, MA | Ellen and Ernie Racine Northborough, MA | Michael Volk Hudson, MA |
| Alex Molnar Northborough, MA | Jane Reilly Northborough, MA | Thomas and Karen Walsh Northborough, MA |
| Ingrid and John Molnar Northborough, MA | Llanda Richardson Underhill, VT | Dale and Suzanne Williams Northborough, MA |
| Zenya Molnar Northborough, MA | Barbara Rolfes Northborough, MA | Hilary and Geoffrey Wilson Northborough, MA |
| John W. Nelson Hilton Head, SC | Ted and Diane Rollins Northborough, MA | Kristen and John Wixted Northborough, MA |
| Richard Nieber and Deborah Dyer Northborough, MA | Michael Roman Northborough, MA | Jan Wright Northborough, MA |
| John G. Northgraves Northborough, MA | Ron Roscoe Northborough, MA | Marie Wyman Northborough, MA |
| Patricia O'Hearn Northborough, MA | Athan and Rene Savas Marlborough, MA | Laura Ziton Northborough, MA |
| Barbara O'Mara Winthrop, MA | David and Julie Schwingbeck Northborough, MA | Philip Backholm and Linda M. Grady-Backholm Northborough, MA |
| Shayne O'Malley Northborough, MA | Dorai Sitaram Marlborough, MA | Dianna Doucette and Michael Langton Northborough, MA |
| Marcia Parsneau Northborough, MA | Brian and Lois Smith Northborough, MA | |
| George Pember Northborough, MA | Marie Spence Northborough, MA | |
| Alan Perry Worcester, MA | Carolyn and Henry Squillante Northborough, MA | |

