



HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER - WILLINGTON

Vol. IV

Willington, Connecticut - Feb., 1977

No. 3

IMPORTANT MEETING - TOWN HALL - TUESDAY, MARCH 1st

**TOWN MEETING CALLED TO CONSIDER
HISTORICAL DISTRICTS.**

There will be a town meeting at the town hall in Willington on Tuesday, March 1, at 8 p.m. to consider if the town of Willington should set up an historical districts study commission. Fred Casel of the Mansfield Historical Commission and Judith Paine of the Connecticut Historical Society have agreed to attend this meeting to answer questions that may arise.

In case it is decided that the study commission should be formed their findings will be reported in a later town meeting at which a Willington Historical District Commission would be authorized.

The power of the historical district is limited although the restrictions on the owners of property in the districts are quite real. Residents of Willington should plan to attend this meeting so that they can ask questions and make their opinions heard.

**PRECEDED BY HISTORICAL SOCIETY VOTE
ON NEW CONSTITUTION.**

The Willington Historical Society

will make an attempt this year to become a tax exempt organization for educational purposes. This should save us money - we will no longer have to pay sales tax on our purchases. Also, dues and any contributions of money or objects received by the Society will be non-taxed contributions for the giver. This should encourage more donations of historically valuable material for the Society. Mr. Kline has been working with an attorney to change our constitution so that it will qualify us for this tax exemption. It is in the light of this work that the revised constitution is being included in this newsletter. The main changes include the reduction in the number of officers from 5 to 4, and the consolidation of committees. This reduces the number of persons on the Executive Board of the Society; this should make us more efficient. Please read the revised constitution carefully, as I would like to adopt it at our 1 March 1977 business meeting to be held prior to the town meeting to elect a historical district study committee. The business meeting will start at 7:30, the town meeting at 8:00.

THE WILLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INCORPORATED

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME

Section 1. The name of this Society shall be THE WILLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INCORPORATED. This Society shall be a non-profit organization and no officer or member shall receive any payment for services except reasonable expenses in connection with the discharge of his office.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE OR FUNCTION

Section 1. The purpose of this Society shall be to create interest and activity in the field of history through:

- a. conducting a program of meetings on subjects of local history or local historical interest;
- b. providing an educational program in the form of exhibits, publications and talks as a Society or in cooperation with other organizations;
- c. acquiring and maintaining for preservation and research a collection of records, facts and material, past and present, relating to the history and to the residents of Wellington;
- d. identifying, marking and preserving buildings and locations of historical interest;
- e. and in general to carry on any and all activities appropriate for a historical society.

Section 2. However, this Society shall not carry on any activities which are not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as now in force or hereafter amended.

ARTICLE III DISSOLUTION

Section 1. In the event of dissolution of this Society, the net assets, after the payment of all just debts, and all its objects, shall be transferred to the Wellington Conservation Commission, or in the event of the latter's prior dissolution, shall be transferred to the Wellington Public Library, to be used for those purposes which most nearly approximate the aims of this Society.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Application. Any person interested in the purpose of this Society may become a member by making application for membership in writing and paying to this Society such dues as may be payable in accordance with this Constitution.

Section 2. Classes of Membership. The Board of Directors is empowered to establish the classes of membership and voting privileges thereof.

Section 3. Termination.

- a. Resignation of membership shall be in writing and delivered to the Secretary.
- b. The Board of Directors may terminate the membership of any member if his dues or other indebtedness to this Society remain unpaid for thirteen months after they become payable.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Section 2. The officers shall perform such duties as are usually incident to their positions. These duties may be further defined by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Officers shall be elected at an annual meeting of this Society and shall serve for two years or until their successors are elected. A majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. To insure reasonable continuity of operation, the terms of the President and the Treasurer shall terminate in the odd years and the Vice-President and Secretary in even years.

Section 4. If an officer resigns or is otherwise unable to fulfill the duties of his office, the Board of Directors shall appoint another member of this Society to fill out the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

Section 1. There shall be the following Standing Committees, with these responsibilities:

- a. The Ways and Means Committee shall raise funds for the Society;
- b. The Program Committee shall prepare and handle all programs for regular meetings and other gatherings.
- c. The Membership Committee shall arrange membership drives and process new applicants for membership.
- d. The Public Relations Committee shall publicize the work of the Society via all appropriate communications media.
- e. The Library and Museum Committee shall be responsible for collection, and maintenance of books and other historical objects and all properties owned by the Society.
- f. The Research Committee shall be responsible for all research into data, sites and houses.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall appoint the Chairman of each Standing Committee. The chairman will then name his own committee members.

Section 3. Special Committees may be appointed by the President or chosen by the Society for purposes not covered by a Standing Committee. Such Committees are automatically terminated with the completion of their specific assignments.

ARTICLE VII BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall carry on all the business of the Society in accordance with the aims and purposes as stated in Article II and shall report at each regular meeting on the actions it has taken since the last regular meeting. All final decisions regarding policy shall be determined by the membership at a regular meeting or at a special meeting.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall consist of the four elected officers and the Chairmen of the Standing Committees.

Section 3. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at the call of the President or on request of any three members of the Board.

Section 4. Six members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. Votes of the Board will be passed by a simple majority present and voting.

Section 5. A director will cease to be such, automatically, if he misses three consecutive board meetings without reason.

ARTICLE VIII DUES AND FINANCE

Section 1. Annual dues. The annual dues for the several grades of membership shall be fixed by the Board of Directors, subject to the approval of the Society by a majority vote. Said dues shall remain in effect until the next annual meeting.

Section 2. Fiscal year. The fiscal year of the Society shall be from 1 June to 31 May of the following year.

Section 3. Auditor. An auditor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at the end of each fiscal year to audit the books of this Society in time for presentation at the subsequent annual meeting.

ARTICLE IX MEETINGS

Section 1. The Annual Meeting, which shall be a regular meeting of this Society, shall be held during the month of September.

Section 2. Additional Regular Meetings shall be held spaced throughout the year.

Section 3. Special Meetings shall be held at the direction of the President of the Board of Directors or upon written and signed application of ten members of the Society to the Secretary within 30 days of the receipt of such applications. Notice of such meetings shall be mailed to each member at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Section 4. There shall be at least four Board of Directors' meetings per year; place, date and time shall be at the discretion of the President.

Section 5. Fifteen percent of the paid membership shall constitute a quorum of this Society for the transaction of all business.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended by a two-third majority of the legal votes cast at any meeting of this Society, provided that written notice of said meeting and a copy of all proposed changes has been given to the membership at least 15 days in advance of said meeting.

Wilmington Historical Society
West Wilmington, Connecticut 06279

