The Webster Historical Society has been busy lately procuring bids, and we are nearly ready to proceed with the restoration of the Old Meeting House windows. Our request for funds from the Town of Webster this year is specifically for **Windows Restoration**. We have received proposals from expert restoration companies and have awarded the job to the most favorable bidder: Decatur Company in Alton.

A big thank you to the Town of Webster for your past help. This has enabled us to take important first steps to restore the Old Webster Meeting House.

Wet Basement Solutions installed a vapor barrier in the half-basement, covering the dirt floor and the adjacent side walls, and sealed the four basement windows. This encapsulation will prevent moisture from being pulled into the Meeting House itself and out through the clapboards, causing the paint to peel.

Many volunteers have stepped up this year to do the rest.

- Performed monthly moisture readings for over a year in order to keep track of the percentage of moisture.
- Sprayed BoraCare on underside of Meeting House to eliminate the current infestation and prevent further powder-post beetle damage.
- Graded the soil around the Meeting House to enable the water to drain away from the building.
- Graded driveway and spread gravel.
- Sealed additional holes in the foundation to prevent water infiltration.
- Cleaned the Meeting House and shed. Also, cleared brush and stumps from around the Carriage Shed.
- Cut the grass in the summer and plowed the snow in the winter.
- Installed a new sump pump and stairs in the Hy-Mar Building.
- Inspected the entire electrical service and updated all receptacles in the Meeting House.
- Gathered estimates and other backup materials for a New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grant or other grants available for application this spring. With community support we increase the chances of obtaining a grant.
- Updated our By-Laws and the NH Articles of Agreement.
- Hosted the Memorial Day Program attended by nearly 100 Webster Elementary School students, teachers and parents.
- Helped coordinate a Round Robin Historical Program for Webster, Salisbury and Andover School Children in June.
- Held Open House at the Meeting House every Saturday and Sunday in July and August.
Hosted the program entitled “Going to School: Education in Early New Hampshire” at the Meeting House in July.

Held Old Home Day Open House on Saturday and Church Service on Sunday in August.

Hosted the music program “Lift Up Your Voice” with Wayne Santos on Guitar and George Sillars on Saxophone at the Meeting House in August.

Hosted the program entitled “Along the Abenaki Trail” which included a collection of artifacts from Webster resident Les Corliss at the Meeting House in September.

Held a social event entitled “Back in the Day” at the Meeting House in September.

Held Harvest Fest Celebration with “Music from the Woods” with James Pero and Stan Arthur at the Meeting House in October.

Continued to accession new acquisitions and changed displays in the Meeting House.

Purchased a new PC in conjunction with, and located in, the Webster Free Public Library for the Webster Digital Archive.

Updated the archive to include:
  o All available Webster Town Meeting Minutes and Annual Reports
  o Webster History Committee Reports (1984-2014)
  o Over 19 GB of photos and other documents related to Webster.
  o (To access the archive, go to the Society’s website and follow the links).

Reinvested some of the Society funds to produce higher yields.

Welcomed several new members to the Society.

After the windows are restored, the Society will continue to work on our most significant challenge: the restoration of the clapboards covering the Meeting House. This project will include repairing or replacing clapboards, followed by painting.

We are fortunate to have a long list of volunteers to carry on the work of the Society. We are especially grateful for help from architectural historian James L. Garvin, who has generously given so much time and effort to help with writing reports, taking moisture readings, working toward our LCHIP grant proposal, sharing knowledge of restoration procedures and contractors and of how to proceed.

If you use Amazon at all, Amazon Smile is an easy way to help the Webster Historical Society at no cost to you. All Prime privileges, id and password still apply. Simply go to this website: https://smile.amazon.com and select Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House in Webster, NH as your charity. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the Society. To date, the Society has received $196.32.

To learn more about the Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House in Webster, NH, also known as the Webster Historical Society, go to our website: https://websterhistoricalsociety.org, or email us at webster1860@gmail.com