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Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVII, No. 10

www.friendsofwindSOR.com

NOVEMBER 2021

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**Windsor Now & Then Guidelines**

This paper is a publication of Friends of Windsor, Inc., a nonprofit public organization dedicated to fostering communication and supporting town organizations, welcomes submissions from community groups and members supporting these goals.

This is a non-sectarian publication and not a forum for promoting any particular religious or political position. The articles included do not necessarily reflect the views of FOW. We reserve the right to edit and deny publication on the basis of length or content.

To enable us to accommodate as much information as possible, we request that basic news items be limited to about **150 words**. For submission of longer feature articles related to appreciation of Windsor's unique assets (natural setting, people, and community), email [fowindsor@gmail.com](mailto:fowindsor@gmail.com).

**FRIENDS OF WINDSOR INC. BOARD MEMBERS**

Patty Crane, president; Julia Allan, director; Deborah Balmuth, co-editor; Cindy Efinger, director; Dominique Frink, director; Val Kohn, director; Eileen Markland, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer

**Sense of Community**

"Sticks in a bundle cannot be broken."—East African Proverb

**Paper Talk**

As the days get shorter, the nights colder, and the stars brighter, we're wishing you a cozy, healthy, delicious Thanksgiving! --Deb



**Friends of Windsor News**



**Welcome, new Windsor neighbors—we have a gift for you.** It's been a busy year for residents making Windsor their new home. How wonderful! Friends of Windsor has a welcome box for you that contains helpful community information, a Windsor phone book and a few local gifts.

We try to get a letter out soon after we are aware of a real estate closing. Occasionally the letter is returned because we are unaware of a PO Box. Other times the letter gets put aside and forgotten because it is no small feat to get settled in a new home.

If you moved to Windsor this year and have not received a welcome box, please reach out to Leslie Reed at [lmreed430@gmail.com](mailto:lmreed430@gmail.com).

**In this month of gratitude**, we're sending our appreciation out to all of you who read, support, and enjoy this newsletter and all the community-building activities FOW helps make possible. If you'd like to support us with a donation, we've enclosed a little white envelope in this issue. Happy Thanksgiving! --Deb Balmuth

**Selectboard Seeking Your Input**

When Congress passed the ARPA Act, Windsor received an allocation of over \$250,000.00 to spend on COVID-related problems and to help repair or create a stronger infrastructure. It is vital to the selectboard that everyone in Windsor--whether you work for a town department, serve on a town committee, or live here—have a voice in deciding how these funds are delegated.

To begin gathering input, we have created a survey (link below) that is live, effective November 2. We encourage all those who are able to take it online! If you prefer, you can send Chris Cozzaglio an email at [Ccozzaglio@windsormass.com](mailto:Ccozzaglio@windsormass.com). There will be paper copies and drop off locations (to be determined) so that everyone has access.

If you have any comments, concerns, or need help, reach out to Chris.

Find the Survey at: <https://forms.gle/yfBt2Pp5A59h5JDw8>

## Town Clerk Notes

**Communication.** If you would like to be kept informed of Town business and have not signed up for the Town Clerk weekly email, please email [windsortownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:windsortownclerk@gmail.com) to be included in the Friday email newsletter. I try to include all current events, important dates and late-breaking news.

**Code Red.** Many households received Tornado warnings last month via Code Red. It is a service that sends a message to your home or cell phone in the event of an emergency. It is not used frivolously nor are your numbers sold. To sign up go to:

<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BFB7CC4C6C0A?isMobile=true>  
or contact Emergency Manager Nicole Woodard at 413-684-3811 ext. 9, [nwoodard@windsormass.com](mailto:nwoodard@windsormass.com)

**Tax Bills.** Watch your mail for the town tax bill, which we hope will go out mid-November, with payment due 30 days later.

**Old Medication Discard.** The discard secure drop box is available at the Town Offices in the main hallway, outside the library door (interior). No sharps accepted. Please block out any identifying information on the bottles.

**Town Administrator.** I attempted to take a 2-week vacation from all Town duties and made it a miraculous 10 days. My vacation made it very evident Windsor needs a Town Administrator. Over the next few months, the Select Board will develop a job description and conduct a salary survey. The creation of the job and salary will go on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for Town approval. If approved, the job would be posted with a start date of July 1. This job would eliminate the need for a website administrator and a Select Board assistant and will make it easier to recruit new Selectboard candidates.

–Madeline Scully

## From the Green Committee

As voted upon at the Annual Town Meeting, the Town is moving towards municipal aggregation. In simplistic terms, this means each homeowner will be able to buy electricity in bulk, at lower cost. Right now, each household connected to the grid is buying electricity directly from Eversource at the rate charged to individual customers. Through municipal aggregation, the Town will join with other nearby towns and cities to buy electricity at a “bulk rate,” which allows for lower rates for all customers. If your electricity account is currently set up to purchase from a third-party supplier, rather than the Eversource default, aggregation will not affect you. If you are an Eversource customer, you will have the option of opting out of the aggregation plan once the contract is approved.

There are several steps in this process. The first is to invite public comment to the documentation that will be submitted to the Department of Public Utilities by our contracted consultant, Colonial Power. This lengthy contract, drafted by Colonial Power, is posted on the town website until November 23 with public comment invited. The next step will be to submit the documentation to the DPU. It could take a year or more before we will be granted permission to seek municipal aggregation. At that point, the Town will join a collaboration of Berkshire County communities that currently have a municipal aggregation contract, with the option of choosing a formula that could include more renewable energy at no higher cost than households are currently paying.

Visit [windsormass.com](http://windsormass.com), under “links” to find the proposal. Please submit comments to Selectboard Chair, Doug McNally, [dmcnally@windsormass.com](mailto:dmcnally@windsormass.com) or by postal mail to Select Board, 1890 Route 9, Suite 1, Windsor, MA 01270. Mark your comments as “Town of Windsor’s Aggregation Plan” and make sure they’re delivered by November 22. Alternately, call Doug at 413-822-9337 with questions and comments.

–Holly Higinbotham, [higinbo@hotmail.com](mailto:higinbo@hotmail.com), 413-212-4352

## Windsor Playground Fundraiser in North Adams

A charity poker tournament will be held on Sunday, November 28 at 1 pm, at the Elks Lodge at 100 Eagle St. in North Adams to benefit the Windsor Playground Fund. The buy-in is \$50 with an optional \$25 rebuy/add-on. Top finishers will receive cash prizes. Players of all skill levels are welcome and are asked to get to the Elks Lodge before the 1 p.m. start time. Proceeds from the event will benefit our playground fund! For questions, call Matt Nowicki at 413-652-7590.

–Barbara Connors

## Pavilion Rededication Ceremony at the Windsor Town Park November 13

As preparations at the park were being made for the July 250th event this year, we discovered that the Jean Till Pavilion sign that once adorned the pavilion had rotted and fallen down. That sparked some investigation as to who Jean was and how to get her sign replaced.

To make a long story short, Jean’s great niece, Tracy Kroboth, who is also a sign maker, was thrilled to help by handcrafting a new sign. Through a few brief conversations, I learned that Jean was very active in Windsor and was also an amazing artist. Word then got to Susan Phillips who got to work looking through the Historical Commission’s archives and found some of Jean’s drawings, which she shared, introducing Jean’s legacy to Windsor newcomers!

If you would like to learn more about Jean or have memories of her, please join us on Saturday, November 13 at 2 p.m. at the Windsor Town Park for a rededication ceremony at the pavilion. There will be light refreshments and lots of stories to go around. All are welcome. –Barbara Connors

**REFLECTIONS FROM Mame Whelihan**  
**HEATHER HILL FARM, SHAW ROAD**

**Fall cleaning time** has arrived and it makes me remember the time my two grandsons decided to help me. With furniture polish in hand, grandson number two climbed the stairs and proceeded to polish the railing.

Many minutes later I heard a loud crash and discovered my number one grandson lying on his back at the foot of the well-polished railing. He had slid down to catch up with his brother. Smiling as he looked up at the shaken me, he said, "Boy this stuff really works. Let's try it on the pool slide." I think not. *Who knew fall cleaning could be so awesome?*

**Tamarack Hollow Events**

For more information on and to register for these events sponsored by Windsor's Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Center, email [aimee@gaiaroots.com](mailto:aimee@gaiaroots.com) or visit <http://www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org>

**Volunteer Trail Work Day** Mid-November Date TBA.

**Mondays:** West African & Caribbean drum classes at The Lichtenstein Center, Pittsfield. 5:30pm beginner / 6:30pm advanced. Registration REQUIRED for all new students.

**Fauna & Flora Hike at the Dorothy Rice Sanctuary, Peru, MA, Saturday November 20. 10am-1pm.** Learn how to identify plants, trees, wild edibles and signs of wildlife on a moderate trek w/ Naturalist & Tamarack Hollow Director Aimee Gelinis, M.Ed. FREE, donations accepted. Supported by Peru/Hinsdale Cultural Council and New England Forestry Foundation. Co-sponsored by the Peru Library.

**Ski Sale/Swap at Notchview November 14**

The annual sale of used cross-country ski equipment and clothing, benefiting the Berkshire Trails Bill Koch League and Nordic Ski Club, will be held Sunday, November 14, 11AM-1:30 PM at Notchview Reservation. Come shop for cross-country skis, boots, poles – all styles and sizes, as well as used sports clothing at great prices!

**If you have equipment to sell:** Drop off gear at the Notchview Season Kick-off Party **Saturday, November 13**, starting at 3 PM. You must fill out a consignment sheet listing your items and prices. To request a form to complete in advance, email [carlvc1974@gmail.com](mailto:carlvc1974@gmail.com).

For questions call: Peter Rayton 413-586-9350 or Carl Cignoni at 413-320-5367. Learn more about the Notchview Bill Koch Ski League at: <http://berkshiretrailsbk.com>.

**It Takes a Village Offers Resources for Local Families**

November 30 is Giving Tuesday--a worldwide day of philanthropy, a perfect opportunity to make a difference to families in Windsor. It Takes a Village provides free postpartum and parenting support to families with babies and young children throughout the Hilltowns.

The Village Closet, at 2 East Main Street in Huntington, is a great place to find free clothing and gear, like strollers, Pack 'N Plays, car seats, diapers, wipes, formula, and car seats. Everything is free to all families, regardless of income or where you live.

All programs are 100% free, but they cost money to run. To donate, find out more about our programs, sign up for home visits, or learn about volunteering, visit <https://www.hilltownvillage.org/> or call, *Brenda Arbib, 413-634-5542.*

**The Future of Windsor's Past** (continued from back page)

The adventure capped a season that also included a series of work days. WHC members and volunteers, steered by Dan Cohen, put a grand total of four coats of paint – two primer, two top coat – on two walls of the house. What a difference!

We'll continue making our way around the building, paintbrushes in hand, in the spring. This work, as well as window refurbishment, is critical to the integrity of the building. We are so grateful to the volunteers and professionals who have helped us get this far, and to the town for ongoing budget support.

Volunteers also helped us with another successful project: we rented a dumpster and cleared both the house and carriage shed of items that had been ruined by mold, damp or critters. This cleared the way for us to use the carriage shed to display tools and the bicentennial time capsule during our Windsor

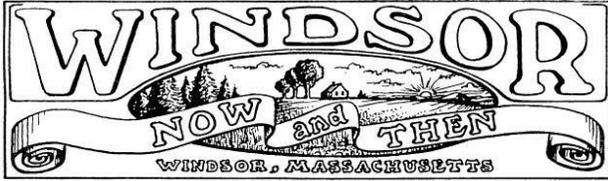
History Day in September. We'll be taking advantage of the cold months to get to work digitizing our collection of photographs and some of our archives and will be planning some work sessions in Town Hall for those who might want to give us a hand with the scanners. There will be snacks!

Looking ahead, WHC is looking for new ways to engage the community while preserving our past – suggestions and help welcome! *–Susan Phillips*



Dan Cohen led the museum painting crew.

NOVEMBER 2021



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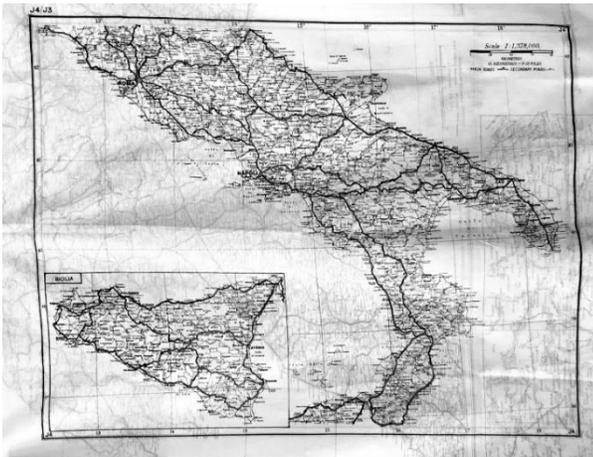
Windsor, MA 01270

***Enclosed***  
**COA Newsletter**  
**Donation Envelope**

### The Future of Windsor's Past

As Windsor's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary winds down, the Historical Commission is taking stock and making plans. We're glad that having a big birthday to celebrate helped spur us to find ways to safely reconnect.

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, a good-sized group gathered at the Windsor Historical House for the final official event of Windsor's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. We opened up the house to show off our refreshed exhibit space in the central rooms of the house, with a spotlight on our collection of Olive Volsky dioramas, and some beautiful new acquisitions: a Drunkard's Path pattern quilt by the Windsor Ladies Aid Society and a World War II "escape map" printed on fabric, showing every town and road in Italy, that was carried by Windsor's Bob Flynn during his service in the army (photo below).



Then, fortified by cider and donuts, we all headed off in a carpool behind Jack Sobon, master timber framer and expert on Windsor's woods, to visit some of the remaining fragments of our old-growth forest...magisterial trees that were already tall when Windsor came into being in 1771, some requiring a serious scramble to reach, and others hiding in plain site by the roadside.

**LEFT: A fabric escape map carried by Bob Flynn during his WWII service in Italy.**

**RIGHT: Jack Sobon revealing the location of remaining old-growth forest in Windsor.**



*(story continues on inside page)*

**SEND US YOUR STORIES!** – *Do you have a story to tell? Expertise to share? A new project or business to promote? Get in touch with your submission, or to ask for our help pulling your story together. Contact Susan Phillips at [susanphillips57@gmail.com](mailto:susanphillips57@gmail.com)*