

Mark Your Calendars for Giving Tuesday December 1st

Ellington Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

November 20th 2020

Preserve the Past...Build the Future

President's message

It is somewhat fitting, as the seasons change with such luster, so does our beloved Nellie McKnight



Museum. As of mid-November, we have so much to be grateful for: a newly constructed front porch, an incredible restoration and paint job, and a new Farm Exhibit inside Nellie's old barn. In addition [Skips Wastewater Services](#) has volunteered to install a septic system at no charge. How fortunate to have such giving businesses in Ellington! Besides these projects, we have updated our by-laws, are continuing to look at ways to utilize frozen funds from our glass collection, saved a piece of Ellington's history by preserving the front gable of the Cogswell School and reconstructed the barn door on the east entrance to the Farm Exhibit. We hope to soon begin construction on the front entrance. We have begun seeking plans for renovation of our back porch entrance for easier access and are looking into updating our electrical needs both in the museum and in the barn. Also being researched are insulation possibilities to help increase winter month usage. A design committee has been formed to create plans for our biggest goal: a new barn that would host a wide variety of events and

secure future funding through rental. Ideas are also churning as to the best use of the Cogswell School front gable. We are seeking grants and donations and are planning fundraising events as our funds for projects is all but depleted. We are participating in **Giving Tuesday on Dec 1st** and are hopeful for donations. We should be very proud of our efforts. I surely am.

Mark Maciolek

Porches

We are extremely happy with the outcome and appearance of our main entrance. We have had so much positive feedback and we are currently looking into renovating the back porch. Our back porch surface (worn pressure treated wood) is not only in need of a cosmetic update, the porch entrances from both the south and west side are unsafe. We have contacted a stone mason to look into the much needed changes and renovations to the stone stairs.



Painting

The fine paint job by Ellington native Kenny Hill and the Melting Pot Painters is finished. Kenny's crew worked tirelessly throughout several heat waves and carried out our desire to restore damaged clapboards, trim, and windows. As you can see, the house has been repainted back to its original white, however we decided to paint the window casings and front porch accents with Essex Green. A rich burgundy was decided upon for both doors, and a new Robin Nest Blue ceiling can be found on the back porch. Weeks after the completion of the job, Kenny presented the Ellington Historical Society a check for \$500 dollars, as a way of, "giving back to my community." We sincerely thank Kenny and the Melting Pot Painters for the fine work they performed and for their generosity.

New Barn Door

If you ever tried to open the east side barn door entrance you can attest to the difficulty over these past several years. The east side of the barn has settled and both doors were below ground level. When they did open, often the wind blew them both open and closed, creating an unsafe opening. A new entrance was designed and the work was carried out by master carpenter, Bob Socha from R.C.S, Contracting. Bob built a fine looking sliding door that is both safe and easy to use. Centered under the above window, the door opens easily into the newly created Farm Exhibit.



A new design for the front of the barn entrance will change the look of the old garage doors, back to a smaller version of the original two sliding doors that once opened to the east and west. It was decided to add two, period style windows, to each side of the sliding doors to help increase the amount of natural light to the middle display room.



Grand Opening of the Farm Exhibit

Months of hard work cleaning, designing, and preparing for the grand opening of our new Farm Exhibit paid off. Several hundred people of all ages enjoyed fine music, country style craft vendors, farm animals, and of course the newly renovated barn and exhibit. Careful attention to mask wearing and spacing were evident as lines formed to enter both the Farm Exhibit and a new Vintage Clothing Exhibit upstairs in the Nellie McKnight Museum. We are so grateful to all of our volunteers and generous vendors who donated much of their sales. Over \$1,800 dollars was raised and many new members acquired. Special thanks to Kay Luginbuhl, Jennifer Smith, Dianne Trueb, Kathleen Hemingway and her beatification committee, Laura Mateya, and Karen Kloter. Kay's and Jennifer's sense of design was paramount in the final display. Nancy Long did an incredible job setting up the vintage clothing exhibit in the main house.



Ellington News and Events

In mid October Kathy Hemmingway and Mark Maciolek had the privilege of being First Selectman Lori Spielman's 50th guests on her monthly public television show, Ellington News and Events. If you didn't have the opportunity to see it in October, you can check out it via this link.

<https://bit.ly/38VcSCD>

Cogswell School Front Gable Saved

Built in 1875, Cogswell School enjoyed students who lived near the southern border of Ellington through the year 1947. Following its closing, students attended the newly constructed Center School in 1948 and Cogswell enjoyed several "acts" for years after, the most notable being Valley Fish Market. Plans for renovations to Agway's property did not include the use of the Cogswell School structure. The Kupferschmids were gracious to give us time to save a piece of history for future generations. A group of Ellington residents quickly formed an incredible crew of volunteers led by son and



father team Matthew and Ed Mangold. On a sunny Saturday morning in mid-October, the crew started early and managed to remove the entire front gable of Cogswell School, original pieces of trim, and all 44 corbels. The iconic front window and beautiful front facade will hopefully be restored and used in the grand plan to build a barn and perhaps a small replica of Cogswell school on the Nellie McKnight Museum property. A very special thank you to Rick Neil of Neil's Signs for doing the "bulk" of the work with the donation of their crane.

New Sidewalk

If you've driven down Main Street lately it's exciting to see the new sidewalk. Gone are the beautiful grey slate stones that, for well over a century, somehow found their own place to settle. We have salvaged the beautiful stones from the old sidewalk and hope to incorporate them in future landscaping. The new walkway will hopefully, given time, create its own charm that town residents will enjoy.

Save the Date: #GivingTuesday is December 1st.

We're proud to be a part of this global celebration of giving.

GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world.

GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. There are many ways to give.

(No need to wait till Dec. 1st)

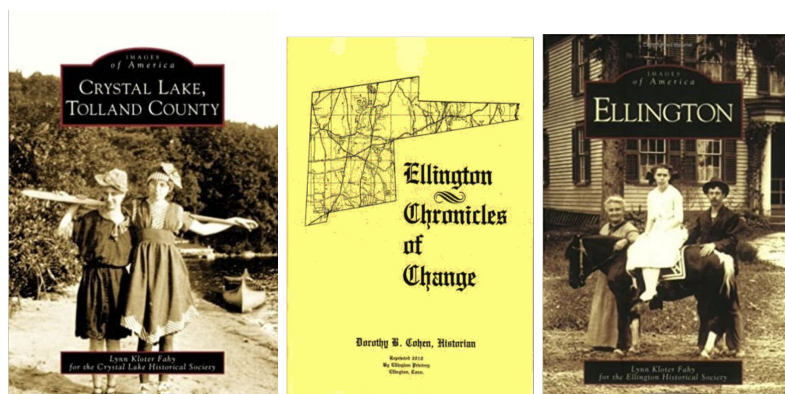
How can you help?

- Get **ONE** person to [join](#) the Historical Society.
- Share, like and comment on our [social media posts](#).
- Make all your Amazon purchases through [Amazon Smile](#). Designate EHS as your non-profit.
- Volunteer some hours to help with an HS event or project.
- Make a [donation](#) to EHS

Museum Store Open Online!



Our new online museum store is now open. You'll find this comfortable, soft, quick dry tee shirt plus books on Ellington's history, maps and more. Go to <https://www.ellingtonhistsoc.org/museum-store> and start your holiday shopping the safe and easy way.



Stay Safe - Stay Healthy - Be Happy
We look forward to seeing you in 2021 at one of our events.