

May 2025

HAPPY May! Harwinton Historical Society is excited to share what's happening and let you know about upcoming events! We hope you will join us soon and often!

Harwinton Historical Society Launches New Website

EXPLORE HHS's newly designed website, **harwintonhistory.org**! The site is informative, most interesting, engaging, offers a diverse range of subjects, and a multitude of beautiful/interesting photos! It is a site that portrays pride! HHS is excited to extend its mission of preserving and sharing Harwinton history.

Many thanks to Ann (who is also our curator) for dedicating a multitude of hours in developing the catchy design and creating a platform that offers easy access to information! Ann spent hundreds of hours creating a site offering downloads to extend information in the articles, banners, and many other enhanced features. HHS is appreciative of Ann for donating her time, talents, and expertise.

Many thanks to members of the Board of Directors who researched/ wrote wonderful articles.

Recently composed articles & posts include:

About HHS
Academies
Accession Artifact Focus: Map in Schoolhouse
"Birth" of Harwinton
Cemetery Restoration
Cemetery Walk 2024
First District Schoolhouse Signs
Founder's Congregational Church
Gertrude Lane
Industry- Early Harwinton
Membership Application
Memories of First District School Students
Newsletters- Recent & Archived
Programs- Upcoming & Archived
Schools to 1948- Move of First District One-Room School
Shop HHS Items: Books, Map, Coin Purses
Weather Foretelling- 1930s

Notable People and Places were migrated from the old website. Be sure to check back as more articles are currently being researched/ composed.

We would love member contributions. If you would like to contribute an article for consideration for the HHS website, please contact harwhistsoc@gmail.org. Thank you!

Harwinton Zoning Commission Public Hearing Continued- Monday, May 12, 2025 @ 7 p.m.

CATLIN INN ESTATE PRESERVATION

On Monday, April 28 the Harwinton Zoning Commission held a public hearing on the Harwinton Historical Society's application for a special permit and site plan approval to change the use of 1 Harmony Hill Road (Catlin Inn Estate) from residential to museum to preserve the historical significance of the home. **The public hearing on April 28 will be continued on Monday, May 12 @ 7 at Harwinton Town Hall. The Zoning Commission will make a decision based on their regulations once the**

hearing is closed. The zoning regulations are online under Harwinton Zoning. Application and site plan are available for public review in the Harwinton Land Use office, 100 Bentley Drive.

HHS is working to provide/address the items that the Zoning Commission is now requesting. Please see the minutes of the Zoning Commission meeting at the top of page 3 for details ([zoning commission april 28 2025 regular meeting minutes.pdf](#)). To preserve one of the most significantly historic homes in Harwinton is a dream opportunity for our community. It will allow the HHS to provide to the community access to our papers and extensive acquisitions that are currently in storage. The Catlin Inn was built in 1760 by Abijah Catlin II. Abijah served as a Revolutionary Patriot. Generals Washington and Knox, and Marquis de Lafayette visited the Catlin Inn. The 3.58-acre property includes the 1760 house and barn- both of which are on the Historic Register.

Please come to the Harwinton Zoning Commission meeting on Monday, May 12 @ 7 p.m. to show your support. Interested parties may be heard and correspondence will be received at this hearing.

Your Thoughts are Appreciated by HHS Board of Directors

Please share your thoughts via e-mail (harwhistsoc@gmail.org). In addition, HHS members are invited to attend HHS meetings. Board of Directors meetings are held the last Thursday of the month (unless the date falls on a holiday: Thanksgiving & Christmas). The next HHS BOD meeting will be held on May 29 @3 p.m. at Skinner House. Members are always welcome.

Monthly BOD meeting dates for the remaining 2025 year: June 26, July 31, August 28, September 25, October 30, November 20, and December 18. If you are interested in receiving minutes via e-mail, please let us know. Agendas will be sent to members.

An HHS membership meeting/vote on the Catlin Inn preservation will be held once zoning/ purchase details are confirmed. HHS By-laws: "Notice of the meeting shall describe the transaction in reasonable detail and shall be given to all members at least 14 days, but not more than 50 days prior to the date of the meeting." We are working on this opportunity and look forward to sharing detail.

ANTIQUE TOOLS/ GADGETS - Sunday, May 18, 2025 @ 2 p.m. **Harwinton Town Hall**

Antique kitchen tool specialist Sue Ryan will bring "unique" items from her Burlington Road Antique Shop! Have fun identifying and puzzling out the what, when, where, and how!

Curious about an item you own? Please, bring it!

Informative and entertaining!



*Join us as antique specialist Sue Ryan leads us in discovery of the what, how and when of antique kitchen tools of ago! Sue has extensively studied and attended workshops on small antiques. Sue is a Harwinton Historical Society member and Harwinton Person of the Year 2024! Learn the history, where, what in this hands-on presentation! *The program is free and open to the public.*

Harwinton Memorial Day Parade- Monday, May 27 @2

Would you join us in marching? Costumes are available to borrow by members at Skinner House if you would like to dress in period attire. Assembly is planned for 1:30 at the fairgrounds. Participants will march down Bull Road to the Veterans Memorial on the green for ceremonies. E-mail (harwhistsoc@gmail.org) to let us know if you are available to join in the parade memorializing those who have served.

Harwinton Consolidated School Upcoming Visit- Wednesday, June 4

Plans are being made to have second graders enjoy hands-on lessons on June 4. (Rain date is Thursday, June 5.) The students will arrive at ~9:15. The two morning sessions will conclude at 11:30. Afternoon times for two additional classes are being worked into the schedule. (School dismissal @ 3:30.) Teachers gave rave reviews to last year's lesson plans and are looking forward to having students experience similar activities. Lessons are scheduled for inside 1840 First District School (observing/comparing 1840 school with today, hands-on artifact usage identification) and "stepping back in time" hands-on lessons on the lawn including churning butter, woodworking, and washboard! Would you be interested in assisting with the "field trip"? Demonstrators of artifacts, lesson assistants, and greeters/timers are needed. It is a fun day! Please e-mail if you can assist! Thank you!

Connecticut Open House Day- Saturday, June 14

Sponsored by the Connecticut Office of Tourism, the event showcases the diverse history, art, and tourism of our state. A multitude of sites across the state will be featured. HHS will invite visitors to First District School and the Barn Museum between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. A wide variety of colonial toys will be available in the schoolhouse for all to enjoy!

Would you be available to greet our visitors? Please e-mail if you can assist during the 10- noon, or noon- 2 shifts. Thank you!

SPRING FRESHENING of First District School \$ Barn Museum

In order to showcase all of our interesting artifacts at their best, a cleaning day is planned for Tuesday, May 20 @ 4 (rain date Thursday, May 22 @ 4). Dusting, washing of desks, washing windows, etc. is needed. Many hands make the tasks go quickly, and it is a nice time to visit and enjoy each other's company- an hour or two and the areas should look ready to greet visitors! Please e-mail if you can assist. Thank you!

Everyone's involvement will make for a strong and impactful organization. Your part in preserving and sharing history is much appreciated.

Please reach out (harwhistsoc@gmail.com) if we can help in any way.

We hope you will join us soon and often! All the best to you!

Harwinton Historical Society Officers and Board of Directors

President: Marti Lecko; Vice-President: Elaine Sederquist; Secretary: Nancy Lyons; Treasurer: Harry Schuh;

Directors: Bruce Burnett, Carol Kearns, Robert Lecko, Kevin Smail;

Curator: Ann Harrington; Building Superintendent: Dennis Andrews