



## Overview

Waterbury Historical Society was founded in 1957 as a volunteer-run nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the artifacts, accomplishments, and lived experiences that make up the town's rich history. The society's collection now includes more than 12,000 catalog entries, and just a portion of these items are on display in more than 15 distinct exhibits at the History Center, located in the historic Dr. Henry Janes House at the Municipal Complex.

## Mission

Our mission is to make history visible in our community. By collecting, preserving, and sharing local artifacts and stories, the society seeks to educate and instill appreciation for our past and its relevance to our present and future.

## Vision

To be the go-to educational resource with convenient access to our archives, programs, and History Center, engaging community members of all ages, researchers, and tourists interested in Waterbury's history and its relevance to the broader story of Vermont.



## Values

### Connection

In a digital environment where information moves past our awareness as quickly as we can click or scroll, it can be difficult to remember that the present doesn't exist in a vacuum—nor will the future. History connects people to the past and future.

### Integrity

From how we catalog artifacts to how we convey information in exhibits, the society is committed to curating Waterbury's story with care, honesty, clarity, and accepted standards of historical society practices.

### Community

WHS is present in the community, showcasing the ongoing history of Waterbury.

### Preservation

An intentional approach to preservation involves careful consideration of what defines Waterbury's story.

### Sustainability

To uphold and strengthen all of the above values, the society must be sustainable, financially and in human resources.

## Strategic Priorities



Diversify the membership and subsequently, the pool of active volunteers for committees, collections, operations, and leadership roles.

- Re-imagine the Nominating Committee to strengthen member development.
- Participate in/be present at community events (NQID, Farmers' Market, Winterfest, etc.)
- Build media campaigns to inform, invite and appreciate volunteers.



Improve access to our collection and the History Center exhibits.

- Establish funding for a full-time Collections Manager, who will standardize catalog entries in PastPerfect.
- Establish funding for a part-time Curator who will develop a visitor experience that curates a "journey" through the key history areas and designates spaces for permanent and rotating exhibits.
- Plan a calendar of staffed weekend hours at the History Center.



Build and strengthen relationships with local businesses and organizations to help meet financial goals and extend our presence in the community.

- Establish a business/organization sponsorship program with benefits accorded to participating entities.



Build and strengthen relationships with appropriate administrators and teachers at Waterbury Rec and HUUSD schools to engage students and provide support for local history education.

- Collaborate with teachers to establish age-appropriate curriculum or special projects.
- Invite field trips to the History Center with someone from WHS to greet them
- Provide opportunities for local students to complete projects for Vermont History Days.



Build and strengthen relationships with the state and other local historical societies to share knowledge.

- Attend workshops, programs and conferences organized by other societies and report out to the Board of Directors.