



PORTSMOUTH

Historical Society

March 2017 Newsletter

As we begin the month of March we find that there is great activity going on with the Portsmouth Historical Society. We have two major events coming up in March.

Founders' Day: On **Tuesday 7 March** the **Portsmouth Compact** will have its annual visit to the Portsmouth Town Hall with our celebration of **Portsmouth Founders' Day**. The Compact, created in 1638, is the founding document composed by the first settlers who came to Portsmouth and started a new colony. The Compact will be on display from **11 AM to 1 PM**. At **1130 I will give a short talk** about the Compact and its meaning to our 379-year history.

Portsmouth Trivia Night: On **Thursday 9 March** we will be having our initial Portsmouth Trivia Night for Middle School and High School students. It will be held at the **Gulf Stream Restaurant** (formerly the Melville Grille) at Melville from **6-8 PM**. Eight teams have enrolled in the contest to show off their knowledge of our history. **Dave Rogers** will be the emcee and we will have five rounds of five questions each. The public is invited to come and enjoy the evening. We hope to continue to have Trivia contests in the future, emphasizing our Town History; the next one will be for adults! Join us!

We are pleased to announce that via a grant from the **RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission** and as the result of a lot of hard work by our Building Committee, we will be getting a new outer coat of paint and some needed repairs to our museum building in the spring. Chaired by Mike Pagliarani, the committee, including Dave Duggan, Gary Gump and Dave Gleason, has worked very hard on getting us this grant.

We are also submitting a grant applications for window work on the exterior of the Museum building and another grant request for archival storage materials inside. In addition John Marshall of JAM Construction has offered to assist us in building a concrete handicap ramp to allow access to the first floor of our museum. We are very grateful for this offer and we hope it will be ready for our Museum opening in May. In addition, more planning is underway to make our museum fully ADA accessible.

Our **Historic House** and **Historic Cemetery** projects will get underway in the spring. The two people who will be leading this effort are Board members Dave Gleason and Gary Crosby. Anyone interested should contact them and offer your assistance directly through our website at portsmouthhistorical.org.

Dues Renewal: The Society's annual year runs from 1 June- 31 May each year. Our membership has grown quite dramatically in the past year or so, but **WE WANT MORE!** In April we will be sending out a town-wide letter asking you to join or to renew your membership We hope that the greatly increased activity of our Society will inspire everyone to join, renew and get your friends and neighbors to join as well. We have a VERY full year of activities planned for 2017 and we hope we can count on your support. Thank you in advance.

Docents: Come learn about Portsmouth's history by being a Museum Docent this summer. We will have two-hour shifts available and we will pair new volunteers with experienced docents. Training will be available in May also. It's fun! Come learn with us.

New Board member: Tim Ryan a Social Studies teacher at the high school has joined our Board of Directors. We are very pleased to have him and hopefully he will assist us in gaining new young members. Portsmouth history is for EVERYONE!

Please join us for our historical activities!

Jim Garman
President

TAKING PRIDE IN PORTSMOUTH'S HISTORY