



# PORTSMOUTH *Historical Society*

## January 2017 Newsletter

Happy New Year to all the members of the **Portsmouth Historical Society**! Our society is very much on a roll as we start a new year, continuing our significant momentum from our successful efforts of 2016. We intend to continue our membership growth and to improve the scope and quality of our programs, maintain our historic buildings and to make progress toward becoming an ADA-accessible facility. The support and assistance of all of our members are critical to our efforts.

I hope you will make a “keepable” New Year’s resolution to get more involved in your Historical Society. Please take the survey on our website ([portsmouthhistorical.org](http://portsmouthhistorical.org)) or [contact us by email](#) to let us know how you can help and also what kind of activities and programs you would like to see us offer to both members and the public.

**Vice-President Doug Smith**, our Program Chairman, has been actively working the following programs for 2017:

1. 12 January: “**Prudence Island’s History**”. A lecture by Prudence Island Historian **Joe Bains**. 6:30 PM at the Portsmouth Library. Call for reservations 683-9457.
2. 16 February: “**Prohibition in Newport County**”. A lecture by Jim Garman, Town Historian. 6:30 PM at the Portsmouth Library. Call for reservations 683-9457.
3. 7 March: “**Portsmouth Founders’ Day**”. A viewing of the original **1638 Portsmouth Compact**. Portsmouth Town Hall. (Times TBD)
4. March (date TBD): “**Portsmouth History Trivia Night**”. Contests for High School and Middle School students.

5. April (date TBD): "**RI Historical Cemetery Restoration/Awareness Day**" Lecture on documenting and preserving our historic cemeteries and Field Trip to one of Portsmouth's historic cemeteries.
6. 21 May: **Member- Only Open House** at the Museum-lecture by Jim Garman. Times TBD.
7. 28 May: **Museum Open House**-start of the Museum season. Times TBD.
8. 19 June: **Annual Meeting**, Guest Lecture, election of Board members; refreshments. At the Museum. Time TBD.
9. July (date/times TBD): **Our Declaration of Independence.** Discussion and viewing of the Portsmouth 1776 copy of the Declaration of Independence. Portsmouth Town Hall

So, you can see we have a great start on a very busy year in presenting Portsmouth's history. We need **volunteers** to help coordinate, publicize and set up these programs. Won't you please assist us by volunteering to help?

We also have three long-range projects with which we could use some help as well:

1. Work is in progress to make our museum and outbuildings **ADA-handicap-accessible**. We have a plan; we need to seek grant money to put it in place.
2. We want to update a **1993 Historic Portsmouth Cemetery Inventory**.
3. We also want to update a **1979 Historic Portsmouth House Inventory**.

We need volunteers from our membership to work on these projects for inclusion into our Town's Comprehensive Community Plan, which is being rewritten at this time. This will be an opportunity for you to get involved in some "field work" that will benefit both the Society and the Town. Some training will be provided. We will have more on these projects in the near future.

Become a Docent - We need volunteers to be docents to host our museum visitors. No experience is necessary and it is a great way to learn about the artifacts we have at the museum.

Help us help the people of Portsmouth develop a greater awareness of our wonderful history as we start our 379<sup>th</sup> year!

| E-mail: [PHSBoard@PortsmouthHistorical.org](mailto:PHSBoard@PortsmouthHistorical.org) for more information.

Thank you,

Jim Garman  
President

*TAKING PRIDE IN PORTSMOUTH'S HISTORY*