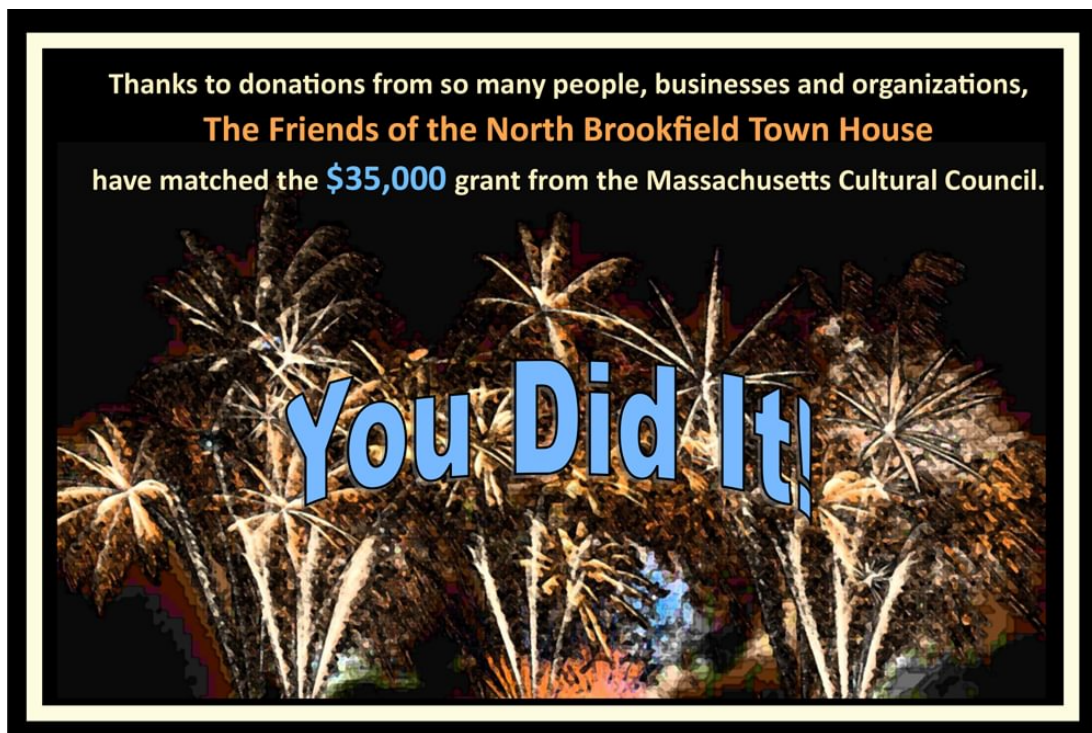




FROM THE BELLTOWER

*The Newsletter of the Friends of the
North Brookfield Town House*

May/June 2023 Vol 1 Issue 2



Keeping Up with Friends' Activities



The Town House window murals have been completed. We hope they catch your eye as you drive or walk through downtown. The attractive, informational designs by Glenna Stocks highlight the building's history and our plans for its future and will announce upcoming events and celebrate successes. Soon you will be able to access QR codes with additional information concerning the building, its restoration, and ROAR.



<- The ROAR Cool Kids were rocking again as they performed May 3rd.



<- Lifetime member Russ Emerson's Town House model was displayed on the Friends' membership table at the May Fest May 6th.



<- Renee Buzzell supplied fun for our little Friends at the May Fest.



^ The NB High School band played at the Friends Art Show in the Congregational Church Hall.

And former Selectman Jim -> Caldwell joined Jim Buzzell as he conducted private Town House visits to the Great Hall.



Meet Addie Reynolds – Friends' Intern



A North Brookfield native, Addie has been helping the Friends with technology and media -- more specifically, working closely with Eva Brown to help launch the new YouTube channel and editing and uploading the series featuring local creators. She found it both interesting and inspiring to see the work of local artists, especially coming from a family that values the arts so highly. Addie also has been collaborating with the Friends on the tech side of things, working to update the website and improve our social media presence.

Addie will be completing a major in media science at Boston University this month. Immediately following graduation, she plans to remain in Boston to continue her 30-40 hour a week waitressing job at a Fenway restaurant through the Red Sox season, and, hopefully, transition into grant writing. (Knowing this, Eva has given Addie the opportunity to take a grant writing course with her.) As the daughter of a successful painter Addie has been inspired to go into the social media marketing sector and work in marketing for mid-career artists. Her goal is to write for nonprofits for a while, hoping to avoid working for large corporations as much as possible.

Proud of her North Brookfield roots, Addie still returns when she can to the old house in which she grew up to walk her dog and hang out with her family. She speaks lovingly of home: "I like to visit my parents in North Brookfield. My childhood home has remained the same and I love nothing more than to return to my books and my bedroom there. My favorite thing is getting out of the city in the summer and coming home to my mother's peaceful backyard garden and watching her paint."

We hope that Addie will continue to return to NB and the Friends and to work with us as long as she can.

The Friends' New YouTube Channel

by Addie Reynolds

The North Brookfield Town House would like to introduce our newest media addition to our organization: our new YouTube channel!

We are currently working on releasing a series featuring local artists of different mediums. We have spoken with local painters, photographers, and musicians. This series will be a chance for you to get to know your creative neighbors. It also can be an opportunity to call attention to your own work. We will continue releasing videos in the coming months and would love to get more creatives featured on our channel. If you are interested in submitting your work and participating in an interview, please email us at friends@nbtownhouse.com and we can get started showcasing your work.

We would like to give special thanks to Elisabeth Hyder, Ellen Smith, Rick Lauder, Ethan Malad, Sue Lyons, Robin Reynolds, Derek Ingalls, and Greg Afton for being the first to become involved with this project.

Another big thank you to our team: Eva Brown for coordinating this entire effort, Ruth Honcomb and Doug Borowski for serving as videographers, Nathan Gershman for setting up our YouTube channel, Addie Reynolds for editing and providing finishing touches, Marilyn Borst for suggesting videos to showcase local artists and submitting a grant to the NB cultural council, and the Mass Cultural Council for providing the funds to make this project possible.

Please check out our introduction video and our first featured artist, photographer Ellen Smith. Don't forget to subscribe for more local content.

Digging into Town House History

with Brandon Avery

On the 24th day of January a committee was appointed by the town to superintend the building of a new Town House. The Building Committee consisting of Charles Adams Jr., Erastus Hill, Freeman Walker, and Dexter Stoddard, first met and organized for business on the 31st day of January 1863 and proceeded at once to discharge their duty.

As it seemed probable that the prices of labor and material would soon advance, (being [in] the midst of the War of the Rebellion) they determined to secure as far as practicable (labor and material) at the then existing prices. Accordingly, Mr. Elbridge Boyden of Worcester, who had already estimates and elevations, was employed as architect and requested to furnish working plans and bills of trade at the earliest possible day. A contract was then made with Dexter Stoddard to superintend the work with the exception of the foundation and stonework. For a salary of three dollars a day he was required to devote his whole time to the building; to make no charge for extra work; to furnish all tools, ladders, jacks, shop room and all other necessary appliances without charge for their use. A contract was in the like manner made with Captain Erastus Hill to do the stonework at two dollars and fifty cents per day.

It was expected when the building was commissioned that it would be so far completed that the hall and stores could be occupied by October or November of the same year. But owing to the scarcity of help and the great difficulty of obtaining some of the materials together with some changes from the original design, which the committee desired it necessary to make, the stores were not ready to lease till the 1st of January of the

next year (1864) and the hall was not ready for occupancy till the 25th of February of the same year when it was dedicated and opened for public use. The total cost of the building \$20,000.

From Temples History 1887: "In the basement are a market, stove store and the town lock-up; in the ground floor on Main Street there are three stores, a good sized room for town officers and town books; in the story next above is a spacious [Hall] and several ante rooms; and the upper story is devoted to an assessors' room and for storage purposes. Ever since the building was erected the yearly rents received for the use of the stores and the Hall have amounted to considerable more than a fair rate of interest on the entire investment."

Upcoming Events – Please Join Us



SAVE THE DATE
The Friends of the Town House
and Bemis Farms Nursery
Invite you to a *Make 'n Take* workshop
**Hummingbird
Porch Pot**
Sunday, June 11 at 4:00pm
The minimum number of participants is 25. The cost is \$47.
Light Snacks & Drinks



The deadline for registering is Friday, June 2nd.
Come to the workshop, or purchase a *Grab and Go* Porch Pot kit
Please sign up using QR code or contacting either:
Maureen Caramiello: m_caramiello@yahoo.com or call 508-596-3582
Eva Brown: eva.dave.brown@gmail.com or call 508-826-6924



** Friends of the Town House Monthly Meetings - June 14th and July 12th

** Oktoberfest 2023 September 30th

The committee is forming now!

Contact Eva Brown
eva.dave.brown@gmail.com or 508-826-6924

Or Maureen Caramiello
m_caramiello@yahoo.com or 508-596-3582



The Chipmunks German Band is returning!!

Please Support Restoration

Revitalization, Education, and Creativity in our Community

Become a Friends of the Town House Member

friends@nbtownhouse.com

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email address for updates: _____

Individual [\$25] ____ Family [\$50] ____ Lifetime Member [\$200] ____ Business/Organization [\$200] ____

Signature (s): _____

Cash \$ _____ Check \$ _____ Check # _____ Donation Included \$ _____

I want to get involved: Fundraising ____ Membership ____
Capital Campaign ____ Programs/Classes ____
Special Events ____ Outreach to the community and potential supporters ____

I have time: weekly ____ monthly ____ one time/event ____

Please describe any special skills or talents you have: _____

The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House is a 501(c)(3) organization supported entirely by the generosity of our members and donors, and the success of annual fundraising events.

Friends of the North Brookfield Town House

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Editor's Note: This bi-monthly Newsletter is an attempt to keep Town House members and supporters up to date on Friends' activities. Please share it with your friends. If you would like more information or have suggestions for articles, contact us at friends@nbtownhouse.com