

Strategic Plan 2025-2030 FINAL

MISSION

The Waterbury Historical Society makes 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 our 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.

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.

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.

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

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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

Objectives:

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

2. Improve access to our collection and the History Center exhibits.

Objectives:

- 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 History Center visitor experience that curates the Waterbury story with intention - establishing a “journey” through the key history areas and designates spaces for longer-term/permanent and rotating exhibits.
 - Create a calendar of staffed weekend hours at the History Center.
3. Build and strengthen relationships with local businesses and organizations to help meet financial goals and extend our presence in the community.

Objectives:

- Establish a business/organization sponsorship program with benefits accorded to participating entities.
4. Build and strengthen relationships with appropriate administrators and teachers at Waterbury Rec, Brookside, Crossett Brook, and Harwood Union to engage students and provide support for local history education.

Objectives:

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

Objectives:

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