

# THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

**Fall Newsletter**



**November 2017**

## WHAT'S NEW THIS FALL

How about a child's carriage? But not just any old carriage. This carriage carried the dream of every little girl in Francetown. Back in the 1950's the annual Labor Day festivities included the raffle of a doll. The doll would be displayed in the carriage as it was pulled along the parade route by two of Francetown's young ladies – Mimi Clark and Abigail Kinton.



In true Yankee thrift spirit the carriage was never thrown away, but rather remained in the family barn where it was found by the same two "young ladies" this past summer and donated to the museum. It is a marvel of craftsmanship and should not be missed during your next trip to the museum.

If anyone still has one of the dolls, the museum would sure be interested in reuniting it with the carriage. It can be donated, loaned or just brought in for a photo opp with the carriage. Contact the museum at (603)547-8320.

Our thanks to Mimi and Abigail for a wonderful piece of Francetown history.

## TOWN HALL REDEDICATION

On November 3, 2017 over 100 citizens and dignitaries met for a champagne and cheese event at the newly renovated Town Hall to rededicate and celebrate the building's availability for community, cultural, educational and social events.

The Town Hall was essentially unusable for a number of years pending structural repairs and renovations as well as upgrading to meet Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standards. Improvements included complete refurbishment of the interior, installation of a fire sprinkler system, a new elevator and new heat and other utilities. All this was made possible through grants, town support and many donors who are recognized on the new placard in the foyer of the building next to the elevator. Under the guidance of the Heritage Commission and Board of Selectmen, this fund raising took place over several years.



## FRANCESTOWN HISTORIC COMMOM

As many know, the common (which includes the Old Meeting House, The Town Hall, The Heritage Museum, The Beehive, the Fairbanks Scale and the Horse Sheds has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



**NEWLY RENOVATED TOWN HALL**



**NEWLY RENOVATED BEEHIVE**

In order to better utilize the Town Common buildings a group of citizens representing each of the involved buildings has been meeting at the home of The Griffins and at Marsha Dixon's Home. Working to improve the communication and coordination among the groups in this historic area are: Board of Selectmen: Abigail Arnold, FIHS: Charlie Pyle, Heritage Commission: Michelle Ferencsik, Heritage Museum: Bill McAuley, Beehive: Sarah Pyle, Old Meeting House: Marsha Dixon and Steve Griffin. Recognizing that not just the building on the common are involved in this community effort, also represented in the group are Community Church; Mark Marony, Village Store: Karen Fitzgerald and David Drinkwater, GHB Memorial Library: Paul Lawrence and Carol Brock. The aim is to ensure that the community as a whole, as well as these entities, benefit from a unified effort to make these resources available to as many as possible.

## ALREADY

The Heritage Museum in November –



The season's first snow!

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## CORN HUSKS – WHO KNEW?

So what did you do with those old corn husks this summer?



You threw them away? They could have been made into perfectly good twine and other items.

Pat Thalhauser recently visited the museum and was noting the way a spindle was attached on a spinning wheel. An avid spinner and weaver she was aware that it was attached with corn husks that had been woven into twine. She went a step further: she was sure she had some corn left from summer in the garden and would take the husk and weave us a new fastener (one was broken on our wheel). A little research on the web and yes the twining of corn husks dates back to the Native Americans who did this to make baskets but it can also be made into a string like twine.