



THREE VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2008

MISSION

The Three Village Historical Society exists to foster and preserve local history and educate the public about our rich cultural heritage. Educational programs are developed by collecting and preserving artifacts, documents and other materials of local significance and by doing research on the history of the people who have lived in the Three Village area from earliest habitation to the present.

VISION

Preserving Our Shared Heritage

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Three Village Historical Society provides the residents of the Three Village area with the continuity of place in history by preserving and interpreting that history of the area which is: the unincorporated hamlets of Stony Brook, Setauket and East Setauket and the incorporated villages of Old Field and Poquott, and their environs

GOALS OF THE SOCIETY

To guide the Society in achieving its mission, five goals have been identified:

- Nurture public appreciation for our area's historical heritage,
- Develop educational resources,
- Provide access to the Society's store of knowledge,
- Expand and develop the Society's existing resources and
- Strengthen the Society's financial position

GOAL I:

NURTURE PUBLIC APPRECIATION FOR OUR AREA'S HISTORICAL HERITAGE

The Society believes that a sense of history enables diverse components of the community to achieve common identities—important characteristics of a community, and so enhancing overall quality of life. The Society works to build pride in the Three Village area by nurturing public appreciation for the area's heritage.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Promote Historical Awareness

The Three Village area has a rich and diverse history tied to events and trends on community, regional, national, and even the worldwide levels. The Society researches, documents, and

interprets that history for current and future residents. In this interpretation, the Society works to include the many different voices that have contributed to our history.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Collaborate With Other Community Organizations

The Three Village area contains a broad array of community groups and organizations that serve a spectrum of interest and activities. The Three Village Historical Society collaborates with other community groups whenever possible to promote historical awareness.

OBJECTIVE 3:

Design Engaging Programs and Activities

Appreciation of history is inspired by developing informative programs and activities that reach diverse elements of the community. And, as with many activities, the ones that are among the most successful and effective are those that are both educational and enjoyable. Many of these are designed to reach children. Programs are also created to be attractive to young adults. They invigorate the membership and the talent pool available to the Society and its community.

OBJECTIVE 4:

Create Significant Exhibits

Exhibits develop awareness about our shared heritage and increase understanding of the Society and its goals. The Society is committed to continue activities to explore potential exhibits in cooperation with or in partnership with the Long Island Museum of American Art, History and Carriages, the State University of New York at Stony Brook; and other cultural and civic institutions.

OBJECTIVE 5:

Educate the General Public about the Local History

Local history becomes real when individuals can relate to it on a personal level. What can be seen and touched can be appreciated and remembered.

Providing educational programs and information about the area's history is an important venture for the Society. The Society works with educators to develop internships for high school and university students, and provides workshops to introduce teachers to the variety and depth of historical materials available. The Society will continue to expand the range and depth of both in-school, on-site and living history programs.

GOAL II: TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The Society develops, through study, dynamic research, and collaboration, a comprehensive and authoritative store of information about the history of the Three Village area and its environs.

OBJECTIVE 1: *Enhance the Society's Collections*

The Rhode's Collection of documents is the largest of the Society's collections. Its continued growth is a key factor in the Society's success. The collection of objects, documents, photographs, and oral histories is the core of its educational resources. Innovative exhibitions and programs developed around these resources help educate the community and reach out to new audiences. The Society will continue to identify significant themes to guide its collecting policy offering educational programs that appeal to the broadest audience.

OBJECTIVE 2: *Conduct Historical Research*

Historical research is the basis for exhibitions, publications and is used to educate the community. The Society employs scholarly methods and techniques that permit sophisticated analysis of objects, artifacts, photographs, community buildings and landmarks. Through its research, including the oral recording of information from its long time residents, the Society enriches knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the diverse cultures of the community.

OBJECTIVE 3: *Promote Historical Awareness*

The Society's role is to educate the public by providing information on historic preservation, government records research, genealogical research, oral history, and other facets of exploring local history. The Society promotes the preservation and appreciation of history by interpreting the natural and cultural heritage of the community at large.

The historic marker program is the society's most widely known and most active continuous research program. Ultimately, it is the individual resident's interest in the history of the community that leads to the preservation of the homes, artifacts, letters, diaries, photographs, records and other materials that illuminate the area's history. In this way, the Society considers the entire community as its museum.

OBJECTIVE 4: *Develop Educational Materials*

The Society assures that research and interpretation are appropriately documented and accessible to the community. The Society designs and implements Long Island and New York local history accredited curriculum units for in-schools programming and to serve as models in other geographic areas.

GOAL III TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO SOCIETY'S STORE OF KNOWLEDGE

The value of research, archives, collections, knowledge of historical homes, and interpretations is realized, only upon dissemination of relevant information. Thus, developing interesting, innovative, and informative access to the resources of the Society will remain a high priority.

OBJECTIVE 1: *Publish and Disseminate Books, Pamphlets, and Other Materials*

Publications provide the broadest access to the Society's information base, and are tailored to specific needs and occasions which create interest, simulate, and inform.

OBJECTIVE 2: *Embrace Technological Developments*

Building a state of the art interactive *Virtual Education Center* will allow the Society to expand the public's access to this varied and meaningful archival collection of photographic, oral history, our vast paper and 3D collections in one place and to make that information available 24 hours a day. The site will demonstrate the ways in which research information is interchangeable between our programs – e.g. moving from Historic Markers to the Candlelight House Tour or to the Cemetery Preservation Program and explore the Society's vast Genealogy database.

Educational programs will be expanded to offer children's research programs which will focus on the homes featured in the Historic Markers program and include information about the people who lived in them, and require students to relate the names of local streets and parks to the people found in the genealogy database.

OBJECTIVE 3: *Provide Appropriate Museum Space*

With limited museum and research space within the existing History Center, the Society will explore expansion options via a feasibility study to best use the Society adjacent corner lot parcel. Interest in the Society's endeavors can be significantly improved by expanding our History Center where residents, students, and scholars can visit and take advantage of our historical resources.

OBJECTIVE 4: *Provide Space for a Public Research Room*

The Society's Rhodes Collection is housed in the historic Emma S. Clark Library, circa 1870 which provides access of up to 70 hours per week. Our Archivist, located at the Library, guides researchers on using our substantial collection.

The Society will also work with the Emma S. Library to include in any future library expansions, a secure area in which Society documents may continued to be used by scholarly researchers and other interested members of the public.

**OBJECTIVE 5:
Maintain and Develop Diverse Public Programs**

Public education is one of the most prominent and successful endeavors of the Society. The Society will continue and expand these efforts. In particular, the Society will take advantage of new technological advancements in the media arts via the expansion of our Virtual Education Center. This advancement will enable the Society to develop a variety of audio-visual presentations of its activities, its research, its exhibits, and its oral histories. These presentations will increase the Society's audience and influence.

Lectures and discussion group offer Society members and the general public opportunities to learn about Long Island and their communities through the Society's research, topics of local history or to hear prominent historians speaking about their research. This forum is provided at no cost to the public and is now being advertised island wide.

**OBJECTIVE 6:
Continue and Expand the Placement Of Marker Plaques on Historic Buildings and Sites.**

Identification of historic buildings by the Society began in 1964 with the marking of ship captain's homes and continues today with architectural assessments of significant structures.

On a much broader scale demanding considerable research the Society is consolidating their collection deed histories onto the Society's database, and updating the existing catalog for future use within the Virtual Education Center. In addition, the Society works with homeowners to seek permission and cooperation in marking and researching historic structures.

**Goal IV:
EXPAND AND DEVELOP THE SOCIETY'S
EXISTING RESOURCES.**

People are the most important resource for the Society. People make the Society relevant and bring the community together.

**OBJECTIVE 1:
Maintain and Develop Professional Staffing**

The Society's membership and programs have developed to a point where volunteers are no longer sufficient to run and manage the programs. Expansion of its small professional staff is now needed to assist the primary volunteer personnel pool – the membership. Thus, the Society must continue to employ adequate professional and support staff to provide guidance and training to members. Planned program expansion requires that the Society provide fiscal resources for additional professional staff.

**OBJECTIVE 2:
Develop, Nurture and Recognize Volunteers**

Most Society functions are run by committees of volunteers from the membership. The Society's professional staff must create a training program to educate new volunteers about the

Society, the local community, its history, and its environs. It must also train the volunteers to effectively run committees to maximize committee and program output.

**OBJECTIVE 3:
Create a Community Outreach Program that Focuses on Youth.**

The Society will expand its intern program to increase its research capability, and provide opportunities for assisting students and young professionals. The State University of New York at Stony Brook provides an enormous pool through which to develop a continuing source of interns.

Collaborative programs will be expanded with the Department of History and Anthropology and may be developed in other areas.

**OBJECTIVE 4:
Interact with the Community at Large**

The Society invites the community to participate in all offerings of the Society and encourages community support. The public is informed about the Society's programs through newsletters, informational flyers, radio, TV, and local and county wide newspapers. Since the future of the Society's success is based on support from the community, new and old residents are kept informed of all programs, along with various groups and organizations.

**GOAL V:
STRENGTHEN THE SOCIETY'S FINANCIAL
STABILITY**

Since the strength of any well-organized society or business is based on a solid financial foundation, a crucial goal for the Society is to insure financial stability

As with many not-for-profit organizations, the Society relies heavily on the financial support of the community and grants. The Society is at an important cross road. It has grown into an active, productive society, worthy of support from outside sources. This growth has necessitated a substantial increase in general operating fund to support staff salaries, educational programs, and the costs of operating the headquarters building.

**OBJECTIVE 1:
Continue the Short and Long Range Planning Process**

Strategic planning is an ongoing activity on the Society's Board of Governors to aid in the Society's long term development. Outside consultants are used to help evaluate and stimulate the Board's planning efforts. The future of the Society depends on the ability of the Governing Board and Director to lead the membership and the community towards meeting the goals and objectives of the Society.

OBJECTIVE 2:
Establish an Organizational Structure to Maintain Operational Continuity.

In order to fund the Society's ongoing educational programs and community activities, each activity must be financially sound. That requires planning and organization. To accomplish that goal, each of the Officers of the Society will be charged with overseeing a group of committees, which will normally be chaired by a non -Officer of the Society. Budgets will be prepared for each committee, and each committee chairperson will be responsible for completing their project or ongoing programs within the budget constraints. Progress reports will be prepared on each committee function and presented to the Board of Governors at monthly meeting by each oversight Officer. Projects over budget will be evaluated and reconstructed as necessary.

OBJECTIVE 3:
Maximize Grant Opportunities

Financial support through grants has become an important component in the Society's budget. Even though competition for grants is fierce and the total number of grants is limited, the Society will continue to seek these funding opportunities, and will devise a systematic approach to discover and make application for available grants. A report of grant applications and status will be presented to the Board of Governors at each monthly Board Meeting.

OBJECTIVE 4:
Expand Membership and Revenue Generating Programs

Developing a sound membership base provides two outcomes - one, a vibrant membership willing to participate in and help develop the Society's programs, and two, the finances necessary to help fund the Society's operating expenses. An ongoing membership development program will be maintained, and a monthly report will be presented to the Board of Governors.

OBJECTIVE 5:
Enhance Corporate Sponsorship

Like the Society, local businesses have a special interest in maintaining the distinct character of the Three Village Area. Local businesses that are aware of the contributions of the Society to the community will be encouraged to support the Society through individual contributions. It is essential that the Society continue to develop a strong relationship with local businesses. Corporate Sponsorship goals must be developed by the Society's Board of Governors and tracked during the fiscal year.

OBJECTIVE 6:
Develop and Implement a Planned Giving Program

Legacies are an area of planned giving that the Society will pursue. The Society will develop and implement a plan to attract those supporters who wish to include the Society in their giving plans.

OBJECTIVE 7:
Formalize and Initiate a Capital Campaign

A capital campaign is essential for the Society to build an endowment and to expand and maintain the History Center with adequate space for offices, meeting rooms, research and educational programs, archives, collections storage and exhibition space. The Society will organize and initiate such a campaign beginning in 2009.

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