2018 Program Offerings*

May 15 – NE Lighthouses & the People Who Kept Them
Presented by Jeremy D’Entremont, Author and Historian
Corner Meeting House – 7 pm

Everyone knows there’s "something about lighthouses" that gives them broad appeal, but their vital role in our history and culture is little appreciated. Our early nation was built on maritime economy, and lighthouses were part of the system that made that possible. Due to automation, traditional lighthouse keeping is a way of life that has faded into the past. Jeremy D’Entremont tells the history of New England’s historic and picturesque lighthouses primarily focusing on the colorful and dramatic stories of lighthouse and their families.

Free and open to the public. Refreshments provided. Handicapped accessible.

Sept 11 – Moved & Seconded:
Town Meetings in NH
Presented by Rebecca Rule,
NH Author and Humorist
Corner Meeting House – 7 pm

Drawing on research from her book, Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire, the Present, the Past, and the Future, Rebecca Rule regales audiences with stories of the rituals, traditions, and history of town meeting, including the perennial characters, the literature, the humor, and the wisdom of this uniquely New England institution.

Free and open to the public. Refreshments provided. Handicapped accessible.

Belmont Historical Society 2018 Meeting/program schedule

- Jan 16- Program planning mtg
- Mar 20- Activities planning mtg at Senior Center, 7 pm
- May 15- Program at the Corner Meeting House, 7 pm
- July- workday at PRMH date TBD
- Aug- Participate in old home day, downtown
- Sept 11- Program at the Corner Meeting House at 7 pm
- Oct 16- Annual meeting at Senior Center, 7 pm

The society’s current focus continues to be on the restoration and revitalization of the society-owned Province Rd Meeting House (PRMH) located on Rte 107. The meeting house was built in 1792 and obtained by the Society in 1981.

The building received some badly needed attention in 2012-13 as a result of a state grant award. The foundation was rebuilt, the tower repaired, the roof re-shingled, and siding repainted and replaced, the windows re-glazed and the entire exterior was painted. However, a considerable amount of work still needs to be accomplished on the interior of the building.

Funding and/or volunteer assistance is needed to bring the interior back to life and make the building usable again; we can't do it alone. Numerous opportunities exist in the area of cleaning, carpentry, painting, etc. for individuals or groups to assist with this worthwhile project and help bring the meeting house back to its former glory.

This summer we will also be planting a couple of trees at the Meeting House and some lilac bushes from Wallace Rhodes’ home in his memory.

If you or your group can help the society in moving forward with this project, please contact the president or vice-president. (See phone #s listed for officers.)

Belmont Mill

Province Rd Meeting House (PRMH)
Want to know more about Belmont’s past?
Go to the library and ask to see Wallace Rhodes’ book, “Reminiscences of a New Hampshire Town” which was published in 1969 as part of a year-long Belmont Centennial celebration.

The Belmont Historical Society is a non-profit, 501 c (3) organization run by volunteers and funded by annual membership dues, donations, program grants and proceeds from various fundraisers.

Belmont Historical Society
Please consider joining us!
☐ - Individual Membership - $10
☐ - Family or Organization - $15

Items you might like to purchase:
☐ - Belmont: Postcard Book - $20
   (if mailed - $24)
☐ - Belmont Cards - 8pkg - $10

Complete, Clip & Send Payment to:
Belmont Historical Society
c/o Treasurer, 229 Durtle Rd.
Belmont, NH 03220

Name: ___________________________
Add: ___________________________
E-mail: _________________________

Belmont Historical Society
Officers & Directors
President: William Naughton
    Phone: 527-1374
Vice President: Christine Fogg
    Phone: 524-8268
Sec/Treas: Brenda Paquette

Directors-3 year terms (expire Dec 31 of the year listed)
Ken Knowlton- 2018
Mark Roberts - 2019
Diane Marden - 2020

Belmont Historical Society
2018

Society History

In 1727 Belmont was originally chartered as part of Gilmanton and eventually became Upper Gilmanton in 1859. The name of the town was changed to “Belmont” in 1869 and the Belmont Historical Society was formed 100 years later on the anniversary by a group of Belmont citizens concerned with preserving Belmont’s history and historical sites. Wallace Rhodes, a long time President of the Society was one of the founding members.

For four decades, Belmont Historical Society Members and friends have volunteered energy and time to preserving our special places and stories. Saving and adapting the Belmont Mill for a new community life is just one difference that local Society has made. The Society’s focus for the past several years has been the restoration of the Province Rd Meeting House.

Remembering Wallace Rhodes (1934-2017)

In 2017, Wallace P. Rhodes, a charter member of the Belmont Historical Society and its long-time President, passed away at the age of 82. He was born and raised in Belmont by a local, prominent family. Wallace spent a majority of his life in Belmont and was a powerhouse of knowledge on the town and its history. He also served the town in many capacities throughout his life serving on various committees and commissions and making a difference. He was a generous and caring individual who was extremely passionate about Belmont history and its old buildings. He spent many years developing and expanding his both his knowledge and collection of town related historical items and photos. He greatly enjoyed sharing these with local school children and other groups and individuals. In 2015 the Town conferred on him the title of Town Historian Emeritus. He was integral in the saving and restoration of the Belmont Mill as well as the recent restoration of the foundation and exterior of the Province Rd Meeting House and the bell tower.

Both Wallace and his historical knowledge will be greatly missed by town and its citizens.