Award Winners Honored at Annual Meeting in March

On Tuesday, March 31, 2015, New London Landmarks held its 39th Annual Meeting at Mike’s Famous Harley-Davidson showroom in the 1939 art deco building formerly owned by Coca-Cola® of Southern New England. About 68 people were in attendance. The preservation organization is pleased that the iconic building at 951 Bank Street has been saved and is being maintained.

Below is a picture of the renovated building and owner Mike Schwartz receiving the restoration award from Executive Director Constance Kristofik. See other award winners Sally Ryan (Volunteer Award), Edward Baker (Clifford Stone Award), Todd O’Donnell (Stewardship Award) and Barbara Timken (Stewardship Award) on page 4.

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New London Landmarks would like to thank all of our members who renewed their dues this spring. Our organization is supported greatly by our members and your participation is very much appreciated. We also hope you enjoyed the annual meeting in March when we honored individuals who impact preservation in New London along with having a special speaker on preservation issues.

There is a reply envelope enclosed in this newsletter as a gentle reminder to those we hope want to rejoin New London Landmarks this year. We also would like to welcome as members new readers who are interested in the organization and want to become part of preservation efforts in New London.

While our bi-annual newsletter is a member benefit, we also offer discounted rates to events as well as providing advance notice of programs. We hope that you like our publication along with our mission to preserve and protect the heritage of our historic city.

—Constance Kristofik, Executive Director
Wheeling Through The City

WHEELING CITY TOURS is more than a fun ride on a Segway in a fun city. It is an innovative enterprise built on the experience of seasoned world travelers, Dawn and Kristin Harkness. Segway tours are common in Europe, where they took their first Segway tour in Amsterdam. Their love of traveling eventually took them to St. Petersburg in Russia, where they also toured on Segways. Segways allow small groups to visit landmarks that are spread apart in a convenient amount of time.

This form of touring in small groups is less exhausting than your usual walking tour, and more entertaining and time efficient—actually seeing more in the same amount of time. WHEELING CITY TOURS offers two tours of New London. Each one lasts an hour, with Kristin (or one of the trained guides) leading the tour and Dawn holding up the rear. Kristin talks and Dawn keeps watch with a supportive comment or direction to anyone who might need it so that customers feel comfortable and confident. Is touring on a Segway risky? Fun is always risky. WHEELING CITY TOURS does its best to teach the customers to comply with directions. You are in good hands on this “rolling party” as it brings great and wonderful vibes to New London.

During the tour they tell the stories of New London's rich history that make our present city and its future great, wonderful, and precious! Yes, New London is a treasure box of landmark jewels, and Kristin (from a large family in this area) and Dawn express this vision without fanfare in their tours. They have prepared their talks by taking Sally Ryan's New London history class twice; they will take it again to keep their presentation of New London's history fresh. Frances Caulkin's History of New London has also been a helpful resource.

This subtle and attractive history lesson is the surprising cherry on the top of the tour. They have found that “seventy-five percent of the customers come just to ride the Segways; twenty-five percent want history and Segway.” Their informational stories are added flavors that make WHEELING CITY TOURS successful in New London while Segway tours in other cities, considered more exciting, have failed. Dawn and Kristin tailor their message on the spot to satisfy the interests of the customers. They find that ears and interest perk up during the tour when something personal, historical, or significant is shared. WHEELING CITY TOURS offers an unconventional approach to the standard history tour that is enlightening, engaging and easy to assimilate. For more information see the excellent review by Trip Advisor on their website at WheelingCityTours.com.

Kristin and Dawn have combined their talents to open New London's treasure chest of landmarks to all who want to see and hear its marvelous history while riding on a Segway. They eloquently share the stories of our city - and each landmark. Ponder the question, which landmark is New London's crown jewel? WHEELING CITY TOURS will give you their answer.

Interview and article by
Karen Navarre, Volunteer
New London Landmarks

Pictured on right:
Kristin & Dawn Harkness
Owners
WHEELING CITY TOURS
AVAILABLE TOURS

A morning tour of downtown New London, the waterfront and Fort Trumbull ($60)
We'll glide around Waterfront Park, Downtown New London and Fort Trumbull, enjoying views of New London, Groton, the Thames River and Long Island Sound. You'll learn a little bit about New London's history and architecture, get some local tips on where to eat, drink and shop, and have a whole lot of fun!

An afternoon tour of New London Harbor Light and Ocean Beach ($65)
We'll glide along New London’s beaches and through Ocean Beach Park to New London Harbor Light, Connecticut’s oldest and tallest lighthouse. We will take you up its 119 steps to see spectacular views of the Long Island Sound and Thames River. From this point you can see five other lighthouses (climb is optional).

Custom 2 Hour Tour ($90)
Call (877) 474-1117 for information.

Inquire about a Custom Event
Want to throw an event that will stand out? We provide custom-tailored fun group games and team-building activities. Segway Polo, Segway Croquet and Segway Water Canon Competitions are just some of the activities we can provide. Our events are fully customizeable, so tell us about your group and let us do the hard work of crafting activities ideally suited for your requirements.

To arrange a custom tour or event, send us an email or call us toll-free at (877) 474-1117.
New London Landmarks is proud to share photos from the 39th Annual Meeting in March where the following individuals were honored for their preservation efforts in the city.

*The Clifford Stone Award* was given to **Edward Baker**, former director of the New London County Historical Society for many years organizing events and preserving the historic Shaw Mansion.

**Sally Ryan**, municipal historian, received the *Volunteer Award* in recognition of her many contributions promoting New London history.

*A Stewardship Award* was given to **Barbara Timken and Todd O’Donnell** for their courageous efforts to save Union Station and pass it on to the future site of the national Coast Guard Museum.

**Guest speaker Bill Kraus**, of C. W. Kraus Preservation, has successfully redeveloped historic buildings in Norwalk, CT, and Bridgeport, CT. At the Annual Meeting, Bill spoke of his research on the New London Coit Street West Historic District and the potential he sees for the Whaling City.
A Tale of Two Cities

Mirrored tours of New London and Norwich

Breakfast talk with local developer and tours of post office, city hall, train station and historic hotel (Crocker House / Wauregan)

Saturday, August 8, 2015
Tour of Norwich
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Meet at Wauregan Hotel
25 Broadway, Norwich

Saturday, August 15, 2015
Tour of New London
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Meet at Thames River Greenery
70 State Street, New London

Reservations required.
$30 one city
$50 both cities
($25 / $40 members)

Includes continental breakfast and guided tours. Transportation on your own.

www.newlondonlandmarks.org

For more information about the tours or if interested in carpooling, contact New London Landmarks at 860-442-0003 or email info@newlondonlandmarks.org
www.newlondonlandmarks.org
UPCOMING EVENTS

Tour of Green Street
Sunday, September 13, 2015
12:00 p.m.-1:00pm
BP Learned Center
40 Shaw Street, New London
$10 admission / $5 members

Landmarks member Evan Andriopoulos owns property on Green Street and is an expert on the area. Evan will wear a costume and emphasize the Revolutionary War period of this historic street in New London. Please join us for this stroll past the Dutch Tavern.

Cedar Grove Cemetery Tour
Saturday, October 24, 2015
Save the Date! Details to come later.

The Holly & Ivy
December 2015
Dates and times to be announced this fall.

Back by popular demand! This living history piece written by award-winning Connecticut playwright Charles Traeger and presented by Flock Theatre will be performed at Hempstead Houses, Shaw Mansion, Custom House, and Hygienic Art in December!

ENDANGERED BUILDINGS – STATUS UPDATES

Many of you attended New London Landmarks Annual Forum on Endangered Building in February. In breakout sessions, we discussed five endangered properties. Below are status updates.

1. **Lighthouse Inn**—City issued new RFP for development of the property at 48 Guthrie Place. Adaptive reuse is permitted. RFPs are due by July 10, 2015.
2. **Capitol Theater**—35 Bank Street still empty. For sale at $200,000 or for lease at $8/sf.
3. **US Post Office**—building is no longer for sale. Property still owned by USPS.
4. **Garfield Mill**—still empty. For lease thru seCTor and owner.
5. **605 Pequot Avenue**—1929 home is available at auction per ERA Realty Pros. Starting bid $325,000.

The discussion groups at the Annual Forum provided great ideas for these properties and New London Landmarks will share information with potential developers when known.
Three Creative Placemaking workshops held at the new Winthrop Magnet School Wednesday, September 19: 7:00—9:00 pm. Led by UConn’s Landscape Architects, Peter Miniutti A.S.L.A. and Madeline Schad. This is the first of several planned workshops to take place through the winter to learn from neighbors and friends of Riverside Park what they would like to see in the park and take these ideas to develop a Master Plan for Riverside Park.

Wednesday, October 17: 7:00—9:00 pm. Led by Art Costa and Jerry Sinnamon, the purpose of this community meeting is to discuss the information garnered from surveys centered around assets in the Hodges Square business community. In this open forum/workshop with residents, businesses and entrepreneurs interested in Northeastern New London, we will review a set of preliminary options with the goal of creating a sustainable residential, commercial, educational, and recreational community. Your ideas and comments in these workshops are essential to achieving our goals for this Creative Placemaking Project.

Wednesday, November 28: 7:00—9:00 pm. Following up on ideas collected from the September Workshop, Peter Miniutti and Madeline Schad will explore more specific ideas for the Park and the Neighborhood. The workshop will begin plotting new uses on large maps of the park and neighborhood. These Workshops will continue through the spring of 2013 to create the Master Plan for Riverside Park and the Historic Neighborhood.

**Historic Plaque Application**

If your New London home/building is at least 50 years old, it may qualify to receive an historic marker listing its date and original owner. The information gathered in this process aids in neighborhood preservation efforts.

Our volunteer title researchers study land, tax and water records, historic maps, and city directories to establish your building’s first owner and date of its construction.

The researchers welcome any oral history or copies of old documents relating to your building you may have. Please allow approximately 6 months for completion of the research and delivery of the durable, hand-lettered, sealed, hardwood plaque.

**PLAQUE ADDRESS**

**NAME**

**ADDRESS**

**DAY PHONE**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS**

**LEGAL OWNER (IF DIFFERENT)**

**APPROXIMATE DATE PURCHASED BY CURRENT OWNER**

**APPROXIMATE AGE OF PROPERTY**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS:**

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Replacement Plaque**

**PRICE OF PLAQUE:**

$250.00 Non-member

$235.00 Members

$100.00

A non-refundable deposit of $100.00 is required with this application. Balance is due upon completion.

**Historic Plaques Completed**

- **Manfred S. Copeland**
  
  1901
  
  22 Perry Street

- **Robert R. Congdon**
  
  1930
  
  25 Shirley Lane

- **Bridget Dobson**
  
  1909
  
  1144 Ocean Avenue

If you have a Landmarks Whale Plaque on your home and it is fading, chipping or wearing away, we can have it restored for a fee of $100.00. These are hardwood plaques, hand-painted with the historic information, but we realize they don’t last forever. The program began in 1985 so some of these plaques have been “out in the weather” for many years. Let us know if restoration is in order.
Our Business Members!

All Souls Congregation
Baratz Realty
The Barrows Building
Blu-Prints Unlimited
Byles MacDougall Funeral Service
Chelsea Groton Bank
Chamber of Commerce Eastern Connecticut
Law Office of Eugene C. Cushman
Custom House Maritime Museum
Dime Bank
EMCOR Services
Faulkner & Graves
Mariani Reck Lane LLC
MJ Sullivan Automotive
Mystic Seaport
New London Harbour Towers / City Flats
New London Local First
New London Main Street
Starr Street Association
Waterhouse Salon

Membership benefits include newsletter, advance notice of events, reduced member fees and satisfaction of helping support New London’s rich architectural heritage!

Membership

Name: ____________________________________________
Company:________________________________________
Address:_________________________________________
Telephone:_______________________________________
Email:___________________________________________
Website:_________________________________________

Individual Membership:
Individual $25
Family $35
Contributor $75
Patron $100
President’s Circle $500

Business Membership:
Heritage Supporter $100
Heritage Partner $200
President’s Circle $500

www.newlondonlandmarks.org (Join/Give)

Thank You For Your Support!