

The Information Window

WWI Memorial Reboot

By Tom Watson, Recording Secretary

This year 2018 marks the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I. To honor this occasion the Wantagh Preservation Society (WPS) is leading the effort to recreate Wantagh's original World War I memorial. Listed on the original memorial were the Wantagh men who served in that war.

The original memorial once stood near the train tracks close to the original Wantagh train station. The recreated memorial will be placed on the triangular property just south of the train tracks.

The WPS plans to have the memorial constructed this fall. The original memorial was dedicated in the spring of 1919 so it is fitting for the dedication of the new memorial to be scheduled next spring, exactly 100 years later.

The WPS is reaching out to you to donate to this effort. Your contribution will be recognized at the dedication ceremony of the new memorial.

Bronze contributor: \$25-\$99
Silver contributor: \$100-\$249
Gold contributor: \$250-\$499
Platinum contributor: \$500 and above

Please send your donation by check to:

Wantagh Preservation Society
PO Box 132
Wantagh, NY 11793



For convenience, you can donate online by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://www.wantagh.li/memorial> Thank You! 📖



Wantagh's Original World War I Memorial



Saint Matthias Church as it stands today

Landmark Possibility on Jerusalem and Oakfield Avenues

By Tom Watson, Recording Secretary

This year on July 31st the Town of Hempstead Landmark Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Town Board that the 1904 Saint Matthias Church be granted Town of Hempstead landmark status. The Town Board will discuss the recommendation at a future Town Board meeting and will then make the final landmark decision.

The church, located on the southeast corner of Jerusalem and Oakfield Avenues, was constructed as a replacement for the Old Burying Ground church on Oakfield Avenue which was built in 1845 but burned down in the late 1890's as a result of a caretaker's accident. 📖

Wantagh Preservation Society

1700 Wantagh Avenue (Museum Location)
PO Box 132 (Mailing Address)
Wantagh, Long Island, New York 11793

516.826.8767

museum.wantagh.li

Upcoming Events:

- ♦ Trustee Meeting, September 4, 7:00 PM at Wantagh Museum
- ♦ Trustee Meeting, October 2, 7:00 PM at Wantagh Museum
- ♦ General Meeting, October 23, 7:00 PM at Wantagh Library, presentation "Cemeteries in Wantagh"
- ♦ Trustee Meeting, November 6, 7:00 PM at Wantagh Museum
- ♦ General Meeting, November 27, 7:00 PM at Wantagh Library, presentation "Jones Beach Postcards"

Wantagh Preservation Society

Elected Officers

President: Bob Meagher
Vice President: Elaine Yarris
Recording Secretary: Tom Watson
Treasurer: Wayne Wagner

Appointed Officers

Curator: Carol Poulos
Newsletter Editor: Jim Colotti

Trustees

Bob Cook
Ellen Cook
Mary Corrigan
Fred Parola
Claire D Reisert
Paul Sigler
Matt Susco
Mary Wagner

The Information Window is the official newsletter of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published approximately six times each year. Please obtain written permission from the individual authors before using material contained in this publication.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter. Your comments, ideas and suggestions are welcome!

wps@wantagh.li



A field of American flags was displayed from May 27 to July 4 at the Wantagh Museum to recognize & honor the veterans who dedicated their lives protecting our freedom. Sponsored by the WPS and the Wantagh 6-12 Assoc.



***Museum is
open on
Sundays, 2 PM - 4 PM
until November 4***



***More renovations are
underway!***

Attention: Professional Photographers

Whether it be spring, summer, fall or winter, the grounds of the Wantagh Museum provide a scenic venue for professional photographers. However, a Photography Permit is required for all professional photographers that use the museum grounds.



The permit fee is only \$50 per hour (an additional fee of \$25 applies for access to the train observation deck). Your fees provide an important source of revenue for our Museum and helps us maintain its beauty that you depend on.

During your photo shoot, the museum grounds remain open to others and there can be no reservations of any particular area. However, residents that visit the museum have always been courteous.



Photography cannot take place before 10 AM or after dusk. Permits are rain or shine.

An approved permit must be presented during the shoot upon request. To apply for a permit, please scan or click the QR code.

Thank you for your support and for helping us maintain the grounds of the Wantagh Museum. 📖

100 Years of Scouting in Wantagh

By Paul Sigler, Trustee


Last year, 2017, our Boy Scouts of America (BSA) council, Theodore Roosevelt Council, celebrated their 100th anniversary. Being a history buff, I wondered, "When did scouting start in my town, Wantagh?". Digging in old newspapers, many of which are now online, I discovered that the first BSA unit in Wantagh, "Wantagh Troop 1" was chartered 1918 March 15. Wow, I thought, the 100th anniversary of that first unit is next year! It would be nice to commemorate it somehow. So our pack, Pack 96, which I am the Committee Chairman, made a 100th anniversary float, which we marched with in both the Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades.



100th Anniversary Patch

In true scout fashion...I thought maybe also a patch? Seeing the success of the BSA Puerto Rico relief patch that were sold to aid the hurricane recovery efforts, it seemed it would be a wonderful idea if we could use this Wantagh scouting patch for fundraising. And since this is a local history anniversary it seemed a natural idea to raise funds for our local historical group, the Wantagh Preservation Society. This non profit organization is run by volunteers and has a very tiny budget. I had visited their local museum and helped them a little now and then. At the museum I learned that there was once a life size totem pole the scouts from Troop 656 had created in August of 1977 right on the site of the museum grounds! This Wantagh totem pole would be the perfect centerpiece for the Wantagh 100th anniversary patch!

I wanted to include and involve all the Wantagh scout units. On the right side of the totem pole is the year 2018 and all the active units are listed. On the left side is the year 1918 and in the totem pole's shadow is the first unit, "Wantagh Troop 1". I am pleased to say all Wantagh scout units, pack, troop, and venture, have helped by purchasing the patches! We have sold 339 patches and raised \$841.65, which will be donated to the Wantagh preservation Society!

I might also add that seeing my interest in local history, the Wantagh Preservation Society members asked me to be a member. I agreed and worked with the preservation society helping set up a little 100th anniversary of scouting in Wantagh exhibit at the museum. 



Life-size totem pole created in 1977 by the scouts from Troop 656

We Need You! Join or Renew Your Membership in 2018!

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ New ☐ Renew ☐
 Email: _____

I'd like to help with:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening & Planting | <input type="checkbox"/> General Meeting Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting museum on a Sunday | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Event Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Publication & Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | | |

Check Membership Level: ☐ Individual \$15 ☐ Family \$25 ☐ Friend \$35 ☐ Patron \$50 ☐ Fellow \$100

Please Make Checks Payable To: Wantagh Preservation Society PO Box 132 Wantagh, NY 11793

"Preservation with a Purpose."

Patience and Politeness Brings a New Roof

By Bob Meagher, President

Sometimes if you request help in a nice way, don't become pesky and wait patiently, you will be rewarded! That's exactly what happened to the Wantagh Preservation Society late last year.

As the President of the Society that year, I visited the administrators of the Nassau County Parks Department with an urgent request for a grant. The cedar roof of the old train station/museum was about half a century old and showed its age. I had a contractor that specializes in cedar and slate roofs, inspect the museum roof and provide an estimate. I was surprised to be told that the north side of the roof, which was covered in moss (looked really bad) wasn't as bad as the south side of the roof, which had no moss but bore the full brunt of the sun. He then wrote me an estimate which I showed the

Nassau County museum director hoping to start the process for a grant.

Eileen Krieb, then the museum director of all Nassau County museums and this year the Commissioner of Nassau County Parks, looked over my request and pictures, and agreed that a roof was needed. But instead of a grant she decided that the project could be incorporated into roof work being done that year at Old Bethpage Village by a specialty roofing contractor. She told me she would start the paperwork process and to be patient. And so, I left, to wait patiently because I knew from past experience that sometimes projects like this can take some time to be approved.

In late September I was rewarded with a call from Jim Moore, the coordinator for the county with the roofing contractor. We met the

next week, so Jim could size up the project and make all the necessary arrangements for work to begin. The men, material and dumpster showed up in mid-October to begin the rip-off of the old roof. Jim showed me the cedar shakes that would be used as replacement - they were beautiful red cedar with a 50-year life warranty.

The entire job took about three weeks to complete which included both the museum and the Post Office roofs. The work was very exacting, and each row had to be lined up just right. That type of a job can't be done quickly like an asphalt roof such as the type we typically have on our homes.

I found it ironic that at the same time the old station roof was being worked on, the roof at the new train station downtown was in the first stages of being completed. I suppose it was the right

season for working on roofs! 📖



New Roof Installation Underway on the South Side of the Wantagh Museum



Southern Side of the Wantagh Museum as it Now Stands With its New Cedar Roof



Wantagh's Original Post Office Sporting a New Roof



Installation of the New Roof on the Original Wantagh Post Office