



## **Windsor Locks Preservation Association, Inc.**

*We're on the Right Track!*

When I think about how much has happened, I can't believe it's only been 3 months. All of those involved with the group are overwhelmed with the amount of response we've received in such a short period of time.

The vision of the Train Station, to me, brings back fond memories of childhood. It makes me think of a time when the world was a much simpler place and everyday life moved at a slower pace. The simple things meant the most. Like sitting outside on a breezy summer night, the smell of home cooking, walking to the general store for penny candy or a Moon Pie and a Coke, or going to watch the trains arrive, the huge engine billowing smoke and squealing to a stop in front of the depot.

With this small town looking towards the future and allowing redevelopment, we lost hold of what was really important for the town to succeed – the past. The pride from years ago was buried. And when Main Street was removed, the scars from the wrecking ball were not all that was left; an emotional scar was left on the townspeople.

Sometimes, in order to get "on the right track" you have to look to the past. The Train Station represents a large piece of the past, not only for our town, but for many of the surrounding towns as well. We must do what we can to preserve this structure for the betterment and future of our small town.

With each passing day, our "community" of friends and volunteers has grown. The old Train Station sits alone on Main Street. The spirit of this once bustling building waits patiently for the day when we will begin the process to "bring it back".

So please, join with us and "Let's Save the Windsor Locks Train Station!"

Barbara Schley – President  
Let's Save the Windsor Locks Train Station Committee  
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February 2005

### FUND RAISING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Fund Raising Committee, headed by Barbara Carlson, completed its first fund raising event. The group sold ZapASnack. With the help of most of the group, they sold 200 boxes and made over \$850.00 for the Preservation Association. GREAT JOB, Barbara and helpers!

There are several events and fund raisers currently in the works. We were recently contacted by New York comedian, Peaches Rodriguez, who offered to bring other comedians to do a benefit show for the

Train Station. Details are in the works, but a tentative date is June 24, 2005. We are hoping to have a comedy show and dinner. Updates to follow.

The fund raising group is also looking for any useable tag sale items for an upcoming tag sale. Committee member Martha Jarvis is in charge of the tag sale. We are also looking for recipes for a cookbook which should be available sometime in the Fall of 2005. Please contact Barbara Carlson at (860) 654-1955 for more information or to attend a fund raising committee meeting.

The next fund raising meeting is February 7, 2005 at 6pm. The meeting is to be held at the Windsor Locks Senior Center.

#### COST ANALYSIS OF STATION COMPLETE

In January 2005, a cost analysis was done on the Train Station. The estimate for the project for the building portion only is about \$550,000.00. This cost is an estimate only and there were many ways the cost could be lowered by volunteers completing some of the work.

The structural report including the site work and a copy of the cost analysis was prepared by The Lawrence Associates. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this report, which includes photographs of the interior of the Station, please contact Barbara at (860) 798-5376. The cost for the entire package is \$10.00.

#### ASSOCIATION MEETING & PRESS CONFERENCE HELD

On Monday, January 24, 2005, the Windsor Locks Preservation Association held a press conference to announce the finding of the structural analysis, cost estimate and unveil the proposed site work. In attendance were First Selectman Jeff Ives, Selectwoman Denise Balboni, and Patrick McMahon, Economic Development consultant. Rick Lawrence of the Lawrence Associates and Tom Elmore and Ann Wellington of Elmore Designs were there to make their presentations. Mike Barile and Matt Udal of the Train Station Committee, as well as Barbara Schley, President and Mickey Danyluk, Vice President were also present.

The Hartford Courant, Journal Inquirer, Windsor Locks Journal and the Reminder News all covered the press conference. The group also received mention on the Channel 3 and Channel 30 news.

Immediately following the press conference was a group meeting. There were almost 100 people in attendance to view the site work prepared by Mr. Elmore. It was announced that we have begun applying for grants and to date, we have in excess of \$200,000.00 of pending grant requests submitted. Matt Udal is preparing all grant requests and hopes to submit at least 5 applications monthly.

#### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

We still have hopes of finding a developer or other interested party to get involved with our efforts to Save the Windsor Locks Train Station. If we don't find someone soon, the Train Station committee is already beginning discussions of how to proceed. It very well could be that the Historic Train Station will be the home of the Windsor Locks Preservation Association. Only time will tell.

With the group continuing to grow, we now have about 100 members! Many of the members participate in the Fund Raising groups or the Train Station committee. We encourage all members and non members to participate in any and all events we sponsor. With everyone's participation, we will succeed in Saving Our Station!

For more information on how to help or to become a member, contact Barbara at (860) 798-5376.

