

Hoosick Falls & Surrounding Areas News

Hoosick Armory Standing Strong

by Bea Peterson

The Hoosick Armory at the corner of Church and Elm Streets has been a stately structure in Hoosick Falls since it was built in 1889. Like many other armories in New York, it was designed by state architect Isaac Perry and housed NYS National Guard Units for many many years. It was placed on the NYS Historic Register in 1991 and the National Historic Register in 1995. That same year it was turned over to a no longer existing community non-profit for one dollar.

Today an all volunteer Board oversees the Hoosick Armory. Current Board members are Deborah Alter, David Borge, Aaron Buzzinski, Miriah Downing, Carol MacDonald, Kevin O'Malley, Fred Pirie, Rick Tinkham and Marianne Zwicklbauer. The Board is looking for two more members to roll up their sleeves and join them. Make no mistake, this is a busy hands on working group, with no employees, whose sole mission is to preserve the Armory and keep it open to the community for many years to come. Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings and help oversee all aspects of maintaining the huge building. Individuals interested in being part of this effort should contact info@hoosickarmory.org.

Building on past improvements to the structure by the previous Board, the Hoosick Armory Board has seen to the

installation of a new water heater using a monetary donation from Saint Gobain, including a separate new water heater for more rapid hot water for use by those in the Town offices. Outdoor lighting has been replaced for improved building safety and a light now shines on the new flag that flies at the front of the building, compliments of American Legion Post 40.

The Town of Hoosick recently renewed its lease with the Board for four more years utilizing space in the Armory for the Town Clerk, Assessor, Court and Board. Unity House, an organization that provides services for people living in poverty, victims of domestic violence and children in need and Living Resources, an organization that provides services for individuals with developmental disabilities and brain injuries, both have offices in the Armory. The Hoosick Falls Pickleball Club continues to dominate the Perry Room, following strict COVID-19 procedures.

Before COVID, Boy Scouts, HFCS cheerleaders and the HFCS Rifle Club utilized the Armory. The epidemic has curtailed the building's rentals and put the Board on an austerity budget, fixing only what needs to be fixed.

The Armory's commercial kitchen is currently available for rent to any Health Department approved small producer, fol-



A new lighted flag flies in front of the Hoosick Armory's main entrance on Church Street. It's one of the latest improvements to the building. Photo by Bea Peterson.

lowing COVID protocols.

Once the COVID crisis is over the Board hopes to see an increase in rental space and building use. Its future goals include installing a handicapped accessible restroom and an air filtration system.

Right now the Board is looking for volunteer community members to plant and maintain flowers around the outside of the building. Anyone interested in the project should contact a Board member or the website.

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