



June 1, 2020

Hello Fellow 'Squamers,

We hope this letter finds you healthy and safe in this time of change and uncertainty. We have been busy scheduling and/or modifying Village Hall activities for this summer in order to create the best and safest programs for all.

Given the current state and local restrictions regarding gatherings and social distance, we have had to curtail and cancel many of the traditional Village Hall programs this summer. We saw no point printing a summer activities brochure, and this letter will take the place of what we can announce so far. Of course, this is still an unprecedented and fluid situation, so schedules may need to be modified during the summer months.

We have cancelled the 4th of July Parade and the Sea Fair for this year. We will all miss these summer hallmark activities, but we think it is the safest and most prudent choice. As of now, our buildings will remain closed to organized activities of any kind until Phase 3 is implemented by the Governor which is currently scheduled for June 29th. As of now, our grounds are open as long as we comply with groups of no more than 10 persons, and masks are required if the 6' social distance cannot be met. This should be in compliance with local regulations for outside activities. In that regard, the Farmer's Market is proceeding and expected to open on June 19th. Every effort will be made to provide a safe and friendly experience given our new "normal."

The Library Committee is busy evaluating what to do after June 29th to make books accessible in a safe manner. Beginning this summer, the collection will be accessible through an online catalog, similar to ones you may have used with your local public library. You will be able to search for books by author, title, or by the collections. Look for more information about this catalog in their next Library Newsletter.

The Exchange will not open this year, and of course, we are all disappointed, but we concur this is the best approach. The Firehouse will not open now, and operations will be re-evaluated after July 1. The Art Gallery will not open this season. Look to our website for updated information at annisquamvillage.org.

Of course, as other village organizations cancel or otherwise postpone events, this impacts our budgetary process. Not realizing rental fees and donations from outside and from village groups changes our income substantially. As you may know, the Village Hall has serious roof integrity deficiencies. We engaged Structures North Engineers to assess and recommend solutions, and we now have 2 potential solutions. Our major requirements for these solutions need to be long term fixes that do not impact the overall aesthetics or function of the building. Cost is, of course, part and parcel of how we continue, but we are committed to not cutting corners for future generations. We should know the cost and range of these 2 designs in early June, and our plan is to start construction in the fall. Working in the attic and on the roof in the summer is hot and unbearable.

We need the village to step up on two fronts this year. Our current budget shortfall can be mitigated by your dues and donations. Further, our buildings need several capital improvements to keep them in sound condition for future generations. Items such as replacing the hall floor, attic insulation, ongoing grounds maintenance and exterior/interior painting are just some of the issues we will face. We plan to do a major fund raiser within the next year given the situation with the roof and these necessary capital projects. Your financial support is both a long and short-term investment in the village buildings and programs we all enjoy and want to keep viable.

We know all of our village organizations are facing many of the same decisions. We also know that Annisquam is supportive and willing to do what is necessary to keep a largely “at risk” population safe. We ask you to keep us informed if you see something that needs attention. We wish you a healthy and active summer. We will do our best to ensure that our facilities are used to keep our village safe and yet provide meaningful activities. We are still planning to hold our annual meeting, in some form, on July 13, 2020.

Annisquam Village Hall Executive Committee,

Steve Harris, President
John Bishop, Vice President
Betsey Colby, Secretary
Nancy Martin, Treasurer
Dave Pearce, Past President
Janet Langer, Secretary- Elect