

Meet Our Neighbors: The Center for Arts in Natick with TCAN Executive Director David Lavalley

Natick Historical Society



"Building Community by Inspiring Connections to Local History"

Annual Review 2021



COCHITUATE RAIL TRAIL

The Saxonville Branch

ON JULY 4, 1846, THE SAXONVILLE Branch of the Boston & Worcester Railroad began operations, twelve years after the tracks were first laid through Natick. The 2.87 mile branch line extended from Natick Center to provide freight and passenger services to Saxonville, a mill village at the falls of the Sudbury River in the Town of Framingham. The passenger terminus at Saxonville was at the depot, with two rail spurs serving the mills. One spur ran into the freight house (Building #7), the only building in the mill complex to survive the fire of 1883 and which still stands today.

Passenger service on the line, which rarely offered more than three trains daily, ended in 1926. The Saxonville passenger station was closed and later demolished. Freight trains continued the run to Saxonville for another 37 years. The Roxbury Carpet Company, the last firm to run the mills in Saxonville, moved its operations out of Massachusetts in 1973, ending more than 150 years of continuous textile manufacturing on the site. The Saxonville Branch continued to serve freight customers in Natick until 2006.

Most of Saxonville's residents worked at the Saxon factory and its successors. In 1845, they asked the state to approve a rail line from their village to the Fitchburg Railroad at Weston. Soon after, the Boston & Worcester announced plans to establish a branch from Natick Center to Saxonville.

ON THIS LAND ONLINE

On This Land Online is a digital, educational resource designed for Natick's third graders.

ENTER HERE



"Building Community by Inspiring Connections to Local History"

Community Engagement in 2021

45%

Increase in
Website Visits

77

Research
Requests

162

NHS
Supporters

100+

Walking Tour
Participants

1,100+

Volunteer/Intern
Hours

37

FREE
Public Programs

2,300+

Social Media
Followers

38

First-time
Donors

966

E-news
Subscribers



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Feedback from Our Community

THANKS for constantly finding interesting topics with talented presenters. A fun time too!

I have thoroughly enjoyed and learned a great deal from the Meet Our Neighbors programs. Thanks for your wonderful work!

Loved it! The walking tour guide had so much interesting information and really kept everyone engaged.

Outstanding program. I've already shared the link and info with several people. As an active community volunteer, this program has energized me anew. THANK YOU!

Please continue these presentations that explore the heritage of Natick Historical Society and Natick.

Really enjoyed the historic samplers and the speaker's engagement with the audience!

The Meet Our Neighbors series has been so great for me as a new resident. The presentation about the farm ... and its story past and present ... was really engaging.

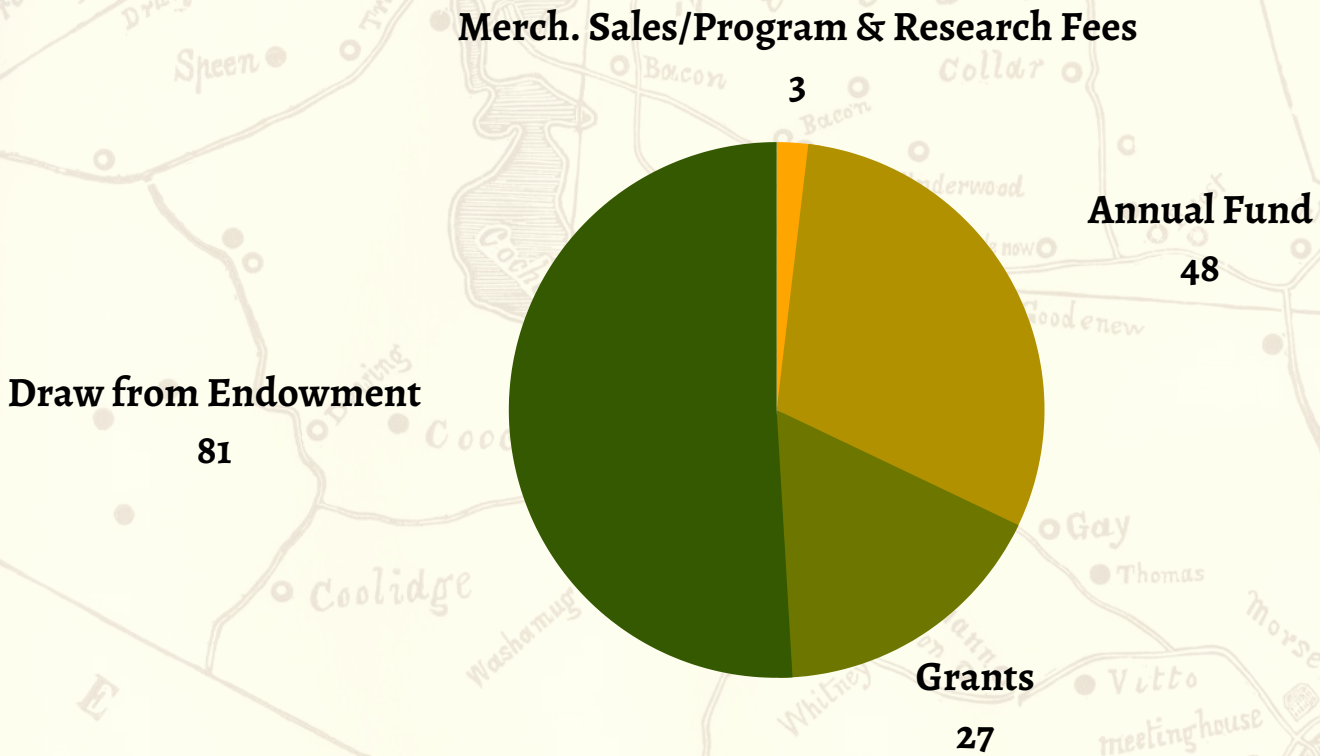
Revisiting the Quartermaster Labs from my "growing up" years in Natick was so informative, details thoroughly presented, and current status is amazing. Excellent venue so vital in our midst for us to understand. Many thanks to NHS!



"Building Community by Inspiring Connections to Local History"

Revenues 2021

Revenues (\$000s)



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Bacon Free Library
Cochituate Rail Trail Project
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Holliston Historical Society
Morse Institute Library
The Natick Center for Arts
Natick Army Labs
Natick Black Lives Matter
Natick Center Cultural District
Natick Commission on Disability
Natick Community Organic Farm
Natick is United
Natick Public Schools
Natick Service Council
Needham History Center and Museum
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Sherborn Historical Society
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Town Seal Review Committee
Walnut Hill School for the Arts
Wellesley College
Wellesley Historical Society



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