

Adopted 5/10/03

The Constitution of the Wilmington Historical Society

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this society shall be **Wilmington Historical Society**.

ARTICLE II

Purposes

The purposes for the Wilmington Historical Society are:

- a. To promote history and original historical research.
- b. To disseminate and encourage a greater knowledge of the history of the State of New York and particularly the **Town of Wilmington, located in Essex County, State of New York and surrounding area.**
- c. To gather, collect, own, hold, preserve, display, advertise and make available for study artifacts, books, manuscripts, papers, photographs, and other records and materials relating to the history of the **Town of Wilmington, located in Essex County, State of New York and surrounding area.**
- d. To encourage the suitable marking of places of historic interest.
- e. To acquire by purchase, gift, devise, or otherwise the title to or the custody and control of historic sites and structures, and preserve and maintain such sites and structures.
- f. To bring together those people interested in history, encourage public interest in history, sponsor historical meetings, programs and events, sponsor exhibits, and write and issue publications in all formats.
- g. To cooperate with county and state officials and historical organizations to collect and preserve materials of countywide and statewide significance.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Membership shall be of the following classes:

1. Individual active members - Any person interested in the purposes of the society shall be eligible.
2. Family members - Any family groups interested in the purposes of the society shall be eligible.
3. Student members – Any student under age 18 or under age 25 with a college ID interested in the purposes of the society shall be eligible.
4. Senior citizen members – Any retired senior citizen 60 years of age or older and interested in the purposes of the society shall be eligible.
5. Institutional/business/corporate members - Any organization, board, school, library, business or corporation interested in the objectives of the society shall be eligible.
6. Contributing and sustaining members - A person, group or firm offering special support to the objectives of the society shall be eligible.
7. Sponsor – A person, group or firm offering special support to the objectives of the society shall be eligible.
8. Patron – A person, group or firm offering special support to the objectives of the society shall be eligible.
9. Benefactor – A person, group or firm offering special support to the objectives of the society shall be eligible.
10. Honorary members - Honorary membership may be conferred upon any person whose activities have contributed to the objectives of the society. Honorary members shall be elected by a three-fourths vote of members present at an annual meeting, upon nomination by the board of trustees.

ARTICLE IV

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the society shall be held during the month of *June*.

ARTICLE V

Officers and Board of Trustees

Section 1. The officers of the society shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. The president, vice-president, and secretary shall be elected for one-year terms. The treasurer shall be elected for three-year terms.

Section 2. The trustees shall serve staggered three-year terms. One-third of the number of trustees shall be for a one-year term the first year of the society's existence, and three-year terms thereafter. One-third of the number of trustees shall be for a two-year term the first two years of the society's existence, and three-year terms thereafter. One-third of the number of trustees shall be for a three-year term the first three years of the society's existence, and remain so thereafter.

Section 3. The officers and trustees shall constitute the board of trustees. Their number shall be not less than five nor more than twenty-five.

ARTICLE VI

Election of Officers and Board of Trustees

Section 1. All officers and trustees shall be elected by a plurality of votes cast by secret ballot at the annual meeting. Eligible voters are members who are 18 years of age or older.

Section 2. Not less than two months prior to the annual meeting, the secretary of the society shall send to each member of the board of trustees a blank upon which such member may nominate one person for each office open to election. Nominations shall be returned not less than one month before the annual meeting. A committee on nominations, appointed by the president, shall select the candidates from a list of all nominees.

Section 3. Nominations may also be made by any member of the society at any time prior to balloting at the annual meeting. Any nomination made after the deliberation of the committee on nominations shall be added to the slate of candidates upon affirmative vote of a majority of members present at the annual meeting. A candidate for election shall be an individual member age 18 or older.

Section 4. Officers and trustees shall be installed at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected and shall serve until their successors have been duly elected and installed. In the event of resignation or incapacity of any officer except the president, or any trustee, the vacancy may be filled by a vote of the board of trustees for the unexpired term of office.

ARTICLE VII

Distribution of Assets Upon Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of the society, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the Federal government, or to a State or local government for a public purpose.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendment

This constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a two-thirds vote of those voting, provided notice was given at the previous meeting; or it may be amended at a special meeting called for that purpose, with previous notice and a two-thirds vote. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing.
