



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Photos included

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AVON HISTORIC SITE OPENING FOR TOURIST SEASON IN JUNE

The Avon Historical Society announces that the Pine Grove School House, 3 Harris Street (West Avon Road/Route 167), will open for the summer tourist season on Sunday, June 5, and be open every Sunday through September from 2:00 – 4:00pm.

The Pine Grove Schoolhouse, built in 1865 as Schoolhouse No. 7, is still standing in its original location, owned by the Town of Avon. It was in use as a school until 1949 when it became a branch of the town library, nursery school and meeting place for the Boy Scouts. The Avon Historical Society restored the building in 1976 and is interpreted as a schoolhouse of 1900 with bolted desks, hand slates, textbooks, and other educational memorabilia of the time. Thanks to a grant from the Farmington Bank Foundation in 2009, all lead paint on the exterior was remediated. During the summer of 2012, the almost 100-year old outhouse was restored by J&A Construction of New Haven and Avon and placed near its original location. In 2014 an informational two-sided kiosk, built as an Eagle Scout project containing history and photos of the School was installed on the front lawn. On the back south side, locally quarried stone steps were added to the side door. Thanks to a Repair and Maintenance Grant from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, several foundations and very generous individual donors, 112 panes of glass in the windows of the schoolhouse, most of them original, were restored during the summer of 2014. For its summer opening in June 2015, the Society held a 150th birthday celebration and publically thanked the many donors, foundations, family trusts

and others who have helped maintain the school house in good condition for public viewing over the past 20 years. Over a dozen former students attended, included on who was 99 years old!

Due to the recent fire at the Derrin Farmhouse, the Society will be postponing its opening this summer along with the planned commemoration of the deed signing 250 years ago. A new event will be announced soon.

For those interested in local history and genealogy, they are encouraged to visit the Marian Hunter History Room at the Avon Free Public Library, 281 Country Club Road, by making an appointment at 860-673-9712. The Avon Historical Society website is:

www.avonhistoricalsociety.org

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AVON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MISSION: to identify, collect, preserve, utilize, publish, display, and promote the history and heritage of Avon. (approved by the AHS Board, Jan. 10, 2001)