

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE TOWN OF WARWICK  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**WARWICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY INSTALLS HEATING AND AIR  
CONDITIONING IN OLD SCHOOL BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE**

Since it was built in 1810, the Old School Baptist Meeting House in Lewis Park, Warwick, NY has been without central heating. A system of coal-burning stoves was installed early on, but removed in 1952 when ownership of the building was transferred to the Society. A major renovation began then and the old coal bins and chimneys were taken out. Since that day, while a popular venue for weddings in warmer months, the Community Christmas Sing Along was the only scheduled winter event. Now, thanks to the generous donation of a local benefactor, the Society has funds to install heating and air conditioning in the 200-year-old building.

You don't install heating and air-conditioning in such an old building without a great deal of research and consultation with experts. The process began many months ago, and after numerous meetings and reviews, the project was awarded to a local contractor, Central Water Systems. Work began last week.

The Old School Baptist Meeting House is an icon in Warwick, and a jewel of the Society's nine properties. This year is the bicentennial of three Society properties: the Ketchum House, the 1810 House and the Old School Baptist Meeting House. Several events are planned for the Meeting House including the Bridal Trail on May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Annual Meeting of the Warwick Historical Society on May 15<sup>th</sup> and a production of *Our Town* later in the year. To date, five weddings have been scheduled also. The Society is looking forward to scheduling the first fall and winter weddings in this beautiful (and now warm) building.

Overseeing the project are Society president Pat McConnell and curator Michael Bertolini, along with the Building and Grounds Committee members Sandy Glazman, John Skinner, Raey Webster and Sheila Warner.

The Warwick Historical Society buildings will be open to the public on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 2 pm to 4:30 pm during the months of July and August. Those interested in renting the building for a wedding or other event may contact the Warwick Historical Society at 845-986-3236 for more information.