

While many historical societies focus on archival collections and lectures about local characters, the Putney Historical Society has found itself frequently taking on a community development role. Its current project, in partnership with the Town of Putney, is to rehabilitate the 1871 town hall, with an emphasis on getting the second floor back into regular use, as well as upgrading the first-floor town offices.

Long disused due to lack of heat and accessibility, the expansive, light-filled upper floor contains a stage, a balcony, and a large open space. The historical society plans to use the balcony and stage for archival storage and offices, keeping the larger space open for meetings, events, research, and collection displays.

The historical nature of the building along with the necessary accessibility, efficiency, and heat upgrades, will put the project cost at \$1.5M-\$2M. Even with PHS treasurer Lyssa Papazian, an experienced grant writer and fundraiser, at the helm, this project will involve a complex funding stack and a lengthy timeline. The organization plans to include a project manager as part of the project cost, along with a town grant writer.

The road ahead is long, and each piece of the project will take patience and persistence, but PHS has been through it before, and the results – in added value to the community – have paid off magnificently.



# PUTNEY TOWN HALL RENOVATION

PUTNEY, VERMONT



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

Pre-planning advising  
\$5,000 award for updated architectural drawings

## PROJECT BUDGET

\$1.5M to \$2M

## PREVIOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BY PUTNEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- Rebuilt, operated, and then leased out the historic Putney General Store, returning a shuttered business to its role as a vital gathering place in the village center
- Transformed an unused church into an event and performance space that paved the way for the launching of Next Stage, a vibrant regional arts hub

**BDCC COMMUNITY FACILITIES  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT**