

Meeting with Deputy Fire Department Chief Martineau – 5/7/2015  
Regarding Combustible Materials

HDC/HC member Wendy Williams and Frank Farmer met with Deputy Martineau to discuss combustible items people should be aware of when they are storing items in irregularly monitored areas of historic structures.

Combustible materials are a fire hazard in any structure but can be even more so in a structure with spaces that are not routinely monitored.

Historic buildings are very dry and can easily catch fire. With balloon construction the fire can travel quickly from basement up through walls and into attic and consume the building very quickly and entirely.

General Recommendations are:

- Less clutter in any room is better
- Organize and declutter as much as possible
- Minimal amount of boxes stored in space

Paper Records:

- Ok to store old records or books in tightly packed banker boxes.
- No open cardboard boxes or loose papers lying around, neatly pack and store.

Propellants/Accelerants:

- No oil paints or thinners, propane tanks, gasoline tanks, flammable liquids stored within building
- No yard equipment stored within buildings because they contain fuel/oil
- Non-residential buildings can store such items in outbuilding such as shed/garage
- Residential buildings can store these things in the garage space
  - Only one gallon storage within residence to operate appliance (i.e. heaters)

Electronics:

- Computer monitors, towers, TV's, discard properly during town electronics collection day
- Basic electronics like radios and small items can be discarded at dump

Recommendations specifically for WPC:

- Need fire alarm system heat detectors, 195 degree point and hooked into existing FD alarm system
- Plastic ornamental flowers are combustible and should be removed
- Unused items such as choir robes, hymnals, paper music, furniture, should be removed

Notes taken by Wendy Williams