NNEC SPRING TOUR: Saturday, May 13, 2017
Laconia, NH, beginning at 9:45 am (rain or shine)

Hebert Foundry & Machine, Inc. is going to open Saturday just for us to see mold making and molten metal pouring followed by CNC machining. The metal casting process goes back thousands of years. Learn about Hebert ahead of time by clicking on their link in our web site www.nec-sia.org. Bring safety glasses, if you have them, and hard toed shoes (no sneakers or sandals). No picture taking allowed.

9:30 am - Meet in the parking lot at 13 Fair Street. Tour begins at 10:00 am sharp. From I-93 take Exit 20 East (Tilton outlet mall) Rt. 11. At 6 miles ignore the bypass and keep on; 11 becomes 11A. At about 7 miles turn left onto Fair St. (by Advanced Auto Parts) and Hebert Foundry & Machine will be on the right.

In the parking lot, we can visit with Warren Huse, the Laconia historian who will be our tour guide for the middle portion of the day.

Lunch will be at Water Street Café www.water-street-cafe.com a short walk away. From there, walk to The Boulia-Gorrell Lumber Co. to see custom moldings being made on historic equipment. Then back to cars.

The restored Belknap Mill is just a few blocks away. Directions for the afternoon will be handed out then. There Warren Huse will first describe power generation dam in the Winnipesaukee River. Inside is the Power House Museum. Also inside, Stewart Ramsay will demonstrate and explain the intricate knitting machines that were required to produce hosiery; some of them invented right in Laconia. Armand Maheux, who was a "turner boy" at the Belknap Mill, 65 or 70 years ago will show us a 17-minute video and describe how socks were made. Warren Huse will then give a 25-minute PowerPoint presentation on the Laconia Car Company. It took up seven acres of land and employed up to 1500 people producing top quality passenger rail cars and street cars. Quite a contrast from hosiery to train cars in one small town.

About 3:30-4:00 PM, those who have time, can drive 5 miles (10 minutes) to Guilford to Fay’s Boat Yard to inspect Jeffrey Fay’s collection of historic boat motors and engines. Some of them were designed and built right in Laconia (Lakeport). Some have been exhumed from lake bottoms and restored.