



*An unscheduled stop by The Morris Dancers - they stopped by to welcome in spring.*

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## Chase's Mill is Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Hartley Dennett's Redo

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### Quarterly Newsletter - June 2019

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Dear Friends,

Before we celebrate, we've got work to do. Here's what's going on this summer.

**Construction** - We are erecting scaffolding, sawing, hammering, and ripping off rotted siding. **Jeff Ingram** and his crew are back at work with **Bob Brown** on site daily overseeing the replacement of vertical sheathing boards and shingle siding. Hartley Dennett's favored small-paned window sash will be taken out and restored off site.



To repair the dam that is essential to our waterpower plans, we'll drain the millpond, rebuild the old butterfly sluice gate, and resurface the front of the dam with new concrete. The date that Dennett marked when the dam was first completed, 1919, will remain, and MHHA will be proud to mark this year, 2019, in the fresh concrete as soon as the work is finished.

Upstairs the community room will be restored to its original appearance and soon, its original uses. Boards salvaged from **Ann Acheson's "Fried Egg,"** will replace rotted flooring, the fireplace hearth will be rebuilt and the chimney relined. Get ready next fall to take your seat in front of a cheerful crackling fire. When we open in 2020, this space will again welcome discussion groups, community meetings, poetry readings, and maybe even live music.

Upstairs and down, electrical wiring for lighting and outlets will be installed, and stairs rebuilt for safety. Down on the line shaft level there will be a new egress platform so that visitors can step out and look over Warren Brook. Further below our large turbine is now ready to power machinery, and our nine-inch turbine is in the repair shop being restored to use for educational purposes.

Plans are underway for an ADA accessible toilet and lift access to the second story so that visitors of all abilities can experience what the mill offers.

**On other fronts, our Curating Team**, led by **Jim Howard** with help from **Margaret Chase Perry** and **Jackie Lyon**, will complete the process of identifying, photographing, and cataloging the numerous items in the mill. Some are baffling, most are old, and sometimes we put a few on exhibit with a tag asking, "What is it?" and a clipboard where you can write your guess.

Under the guidance of **Jim Gruber as head of the Programming Team**, board members and volunteers are planning classes and workshops for adults and children that we will host next year. The **Woodworking Team**

met in May and a second meeting and Board retreat are planned in August. The goal is to finalize a plan this year as to which classes will be taught and by whom along with the myriad of details that entails.

Led by **VP Michael Chaladoff, the Finance Team** will be creating an updated Business Plan to carry the Mill from 2020 – 2023. **Betsy Anderson** is finalizing our **Board Policy Manual** and related governance documents. **Helen Frink** continues as liaison between **MHHA and LCHIP** to insure that we adhere to federal historic preservation guidelines and the terms established by all grants. She is also spearheading the **Grants Team** with help from **Nancy Halden** reaching out to numerous organizations to secure funding for our work. **Bryony Romer** continues to lead **Fundraising Outreach** to individuals and to help with events, grants, and donor relations. **Sharon Spaulding** oversees **communications**, including the newsletter and brochures, and with much needed help from **Stephanie Tickner**, website content. **Juliana Stevens** regularly updates our Facebook page. This year we will develop a logo and create a plan to produce a suite of materials ready for our opening. Meanwhile **Cathy Jahos** fills in the gaps as needed.

**Exciting News** - Early this spring, we were surprised and humbled to receive a gift of **\$150,000** by an incredibly generous supporter. The magnitude of this gift leaves us speechless, which may be appropriate since our benefactor asks to remain anonymous. This unrestricted gift moves us a giant step forward beyond the historic restoration sources that have funded most of our work thus far. We also received a generous \$5,000 donation from the **Bailey Charitable Foundation** in May.

While this has enabled us to tackle some projects this year instead of next, we will focus our fall fundraising initiative on finishing up items needed to open and then on establishing an endowment to provide for the mill in the future.

**Board Changes** - Founding member, **Bruce Montgomery** has stepped off the board after serving for seven years. Though Bruce continues as a friend and advisor, he is missed. His guiding hand, particularly in establishing the legal and organizational structure of MHHA, has been essential in making this happen.

This brings our board to nine people and as you might imagine, **we are looking to fill three empty spots**. If you're interested, and especially if you have experience with nonprofits, fundraising, events, running classes, or happen to be an attorney, please contact **Sharon Spaulding**.

**Mark Your Calendars** - Details will be coming, but **Save the Date** if you are interested in joining our **Programming Team**. We first met in September of 2018 and will be meeting again on **August 10**. If you are interested, please email **Jim Gruber**. Also, we will be sending out a survey to determine which classes are of most interest and along those lines, if you are interested in teaching a class at the Mill next year, please let Jim know.

Tentatively, we will be holding a **Centennial Celebration on Sunday, September 1**, at the Mill. Details will be announced later.

**We are in Need Of...A Barn** or secure storage facility to house artifacts when not in use at the Mill. If you have such a structure, please reach out to **Bob Brown**.

**We deeply appreciate your support and on-going partnership in making this happen.**

Sincerely,

**Sharon Spaulding, President & Michael Chaladoff, VP**

**Reminders:**

- **Your Amazon Smile dollars add up!** Log in at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) then search and select Mill Hollow Heritage Association. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases.



- **Interested in volunteering?** Contact **[Juliana Stevens](#)**.
- **Donations** can be made via our website: **[www.millhollowheritageassoc.org](http://www.millhollowheritageassoc.org)** or by check to:

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