

1717 Meetinghouse Foundation, Inc. Newsletter

May 2019 Volume 2, Number 2



Board Members 2019

- Georgia Lonkart, President
- Donna Grohe, Vice President
- Peter Smith, Treasurer
- Robert Lonkart, Ass't Treasurer
- John P. Jenkins, Clerk
- Mindy Abbott
- Fred Clausen
- Peggie Bretz
- Bill Mullin
- Sarah Wyatt
- Nancy Shoemaker
- Pastor Reed Baer, Ex Officio

Fire and Water -- From the Desk of the President...

Dear Members and Friends,

As the recent fire at Notre Dame Cathedral highlights, historic buildings are no stranger to fire damage and destruction. According to a recent article in Time magazine there have been many historic buildings which have fallen victim to fire devastation, some just in the last 30 years. These include the nineteenth century National Museum of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2018), the eleventh century Windsor Castle in England (1992), the eighteenth century Slane Castle in Ireland (1991), and of course, the recent rampaging fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris (2019).

Fire prevention and suppression have long been on the minds of the Trustees of the Foundation. Several steps have been, and are being taken to address the potential fire danger. An upgraded lightning rod system has been installed to protect against potential lightning strikes, a major source of building fires. Another common source of fire is an aging electrical system. In 2018 a multi-year project to upgrade the electrical system in the Meetinghouse was completed. And to insure early fire detection, a state of the art fire detection system was installed in 2018, replacing the older, less reliable alarm system.

With these major prevention and detection measures completed, the Board of Trustees turned its attention to fire suppression. As you may know, there is no town water system, and thus no fire hydrants in West Barnstable Village. In the event of fire at the Meetinghouse, the West Barnstable Fire Department relies on a 20,000 gallon water tank buried under the green, just below the Meetinghouse, as a major water source to extinguish a fire. This metal tank was placed there in the 1980's and is aging, thus impacting its long term viability.

To address this deficiency, the Board of Trustees is undertaking a major project to replace, or at minimum, supplement the water tank buried in the green. The location and size are significant as the tank must be easily accessible by the fire department, and be large enough to hold sufficient water to suppress a fire. It must also be buried so that it does not impact the view of the Meetinghouse. As you can imagine, a project of this size and scope requires expertise. The Board sought that expertise, and has hired the Horsley Witten Group, local engineering experts in this field, to determine the best location and design of the water tank, as well as provide construction plans and assist with necessary permits for the selected location.

The Board of Trustees would like to complete this project by 2020. However, much remains to be accomplished and as always with major projects, unknowns could impact the timeline. Watch for updates in coming newsletters.

Georgia Lonkart, President



Events at the Meetinghouse



Seven Times Salt Performed at the 1717 Meetinghouse in May

"Easy as Lying", a spirited celebration of music and dance in honor of the anniversary of Shakespeare's birth was expertly performed at the 1717 Meetinghouse on May 4th by the Boston based Seven Times Salt. Authentic music and dance fostered an air of Elizabethan celebration-a fun night at the Meetinghouse.

Save the Date!
**"Somewhat Strange
Stories"**
with
Jack Sheedy
June 14th, 2019
**7PM at the
Meetinghouse**



1717 Meetinghouse 2019 PROGRAM SERIES

2049 Meetinghouse Way (Rte. 149), West Barnstable at Exit 5 off Rte. 6

May 4, Saturday, 7 pm

Easy as Lying: The Music of Shakespeare's Globe, Seven Times Salt, plus new CD release of "Pilgrims' Progress: The Music of the Plimoth Colony Settlers", recorded last spring at the Meetinghouse!

June 14, Friday, 7 pm

Somewhat Strange Stories with **Historian Jack Sheedy**

July 6, Saturday, 7 pm

Hyannis Sound, popular a cappella singing group that always fills the "house"

July 14, Sunday, 7 pm

Meeting House Chamber Music Festival, Donald Enos, Artistic Director

August 11, Sunday, 3 pm

Organ Concert by Laurent Jochum, acclaimed Parisian organist

August 16, Friday, 7 pm

Hope Chipman and her Mayflower parents, portrayed by Plimoth Plantation's Vicki Oman

October 19, Saturday, 7 pm

Organ Concert by Joseph Marchio, Chatham Chorale Director

November 10, Sunday, 1 pm

Early Days of Barnstable: a Celebration of the First Sacrament 300 years ago with Nancy Viall Shoemaker and Greg Williams

Thank you for your Continued Support of the 1717 Meetinghouse Foundation

Did you know that members enjoy discounts at Foundation sponsored events at the Meetinghouse? Join now and enjoy the 2019 event season at a reduced rate!

Remembering someone special? Gifts in Honor of, or in Memory of a friend or loved one are accepted all year.

Donation/Membership Form enclosed

Thank you for your Membership Renewals and Contributions

Sincere thanks to all who have newly joined and/or renewed their membership in the 1717 Meetinghouse Foundation for 2019. And a big thank you to those who sent in additional gifts.

See current Membership Roster enclosed



Volunteer Opportunities at the 1717 Meetinghouse Foundation

Are you looking for the right place to apply your skills? The 1717 Meetinghouse Foundation offers you a great opportunity to use your skills in a vibrant organization dedicated to preserving the 1717 Meetinghouse. Whether you are interested in history, have great communication skills, have internet experience, or a background in the building trades, the Foundation has a committee that will welcome your contribution. If you would like to participate on a committee contact us at development@1717meetinghouse.org