



Belgrade Historical Society

Summer 2020 E- Newsletter ***By Eric Hooglund, Editor***

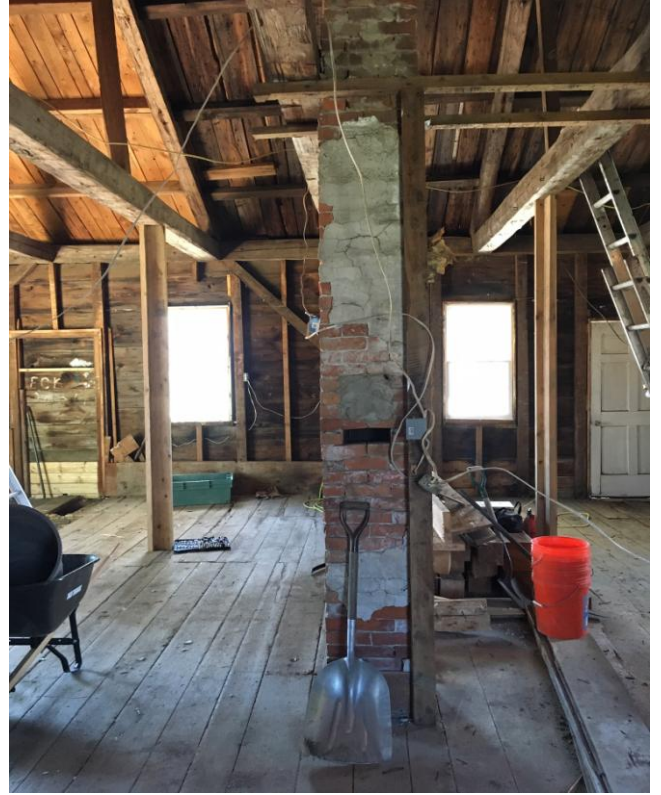
Dear BHS Members and Friends,

Your Historical Society still is functioning on a limited basis due to the persistence of the novel Corona virus (COVID-19). Nevertheless, we have been making progress on some of our projects. Our priority project for 2020 was slated to be the restoration of Belgrade's Old Town Meeting House, and I am pleased to inform you that initial work on that project has been completed. During the winter and spring, River Road Restorations of Sidney proceeded on replacing the sills; stripping the interior walls of the building of its late 19th to early 21st century additions; and removing the non-original and rotted floor. Their work, both in progress and completed, can be seen in the several photos below, with thanks to Doris and Rod Johnson for making them available to us.

We also have purchased new windows and doors, compatible in design to early 19th century ones. These will replace the existing windows and doors, none of which are original (i.e., they were installed decades after 1814, when the Old Town Meeting House was built). This second phase of restoration is scheduled to begin in

August. In addition to the new doors and windows, it will include the installation of a new spruce wood floor to replace the non-original pine and hemlock floor. Now, enjoy the sample of photos of the restoration work!







Other News

*In July and continuing until Labor Day, the BHS History Room in the Belgrade Community Center is open on Sundays from 11 am to 2 pm. Visitors need to enter through the back door on the porch facing the lakeshore (Great Pond). We have new exhibits on display, including two late 19th century railroad lanterns donated in the spring.

*We have had to cancel our 2020 programs due to the Corona virus, but most them have been rescheduled for next summer.

* On Saturday, July 25, we were able to hold our annual yard sale in conjunction with the Friends of the Library in the big yard at Day's Real Estate on Route 27 opposite the intersection with Castle Island Road. Thanks to the friends who donated many and diverse items to sell, and thanks to all the people who stopped by and found useful items to buy. The items were by donation, although we did ask for a minimum \$1 donation. One electric lawn mower in good working condition actually drew a mini competitive bidding war! BHS earned just over \$1,150 from the sale of the donated items, and the money will be used well as we undertake the next phase of Old Town Meeting House renovation, as described above. In closing, I ought to add that It was a beautiful sunny day, but VERY hot, so thanks also to the volunteers who set-up for and staffed the yard sale, and then cleaned up the site when it was time to pack-up and go home.

“NEW”

“The Belgrade Historical Society” NEW Face book page

We look forward to enhancing your understanding of the rich history of Belgrade and its lakes. And also keeping you up to date on any new activities

Capital Fund Drive



Rendering of Townhouse after Renovation

Sketch by Artist Erik Johnson

The **Capital Fund Drive** is going well! We have received several thousand dollars and returns are coming in on a daily basis. A friendly reminder to those who want to give and have not yet done so. Use your return envelope or send your own to BHS, P.O. Box 36A, Belgrade, Maine 04917. Use PayPal as an alternative by going to our website belgradehistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Thanks to those who have already donated, all donations will help the bottom line!

Don't forget that BHS is a non-profit 501 (3) 2 organization, so all contributions to its capital campaign to renovate the Old Town House are tax deductible. Any donation you make to BHS can be deducted from your income tax to the extent allowable by law. Please think of making an end-of-year donation to our worthy cause and help to preserve our history.

Please stop by and check out the progress of the restoration of the Old Town House, they are doing a fantastic job of restoring the building!