

Keep Homestead Museum Board of Directors

Annual Report 2015

Again, open houses were held on the first Sunday of each month, April to December. In addition to the annual programs – July 5, *Ice Cream Social*, August 2, *Concert on the Lawn* with Dixieland Stomp and December 6, the *Holiday Open House with Gay Paluch* on piano and Linda Day on violin, the following were held: April 5, Open House, May 3, The Flexible Farmer, June 7, Button Collector's Scrapbook with Anne Sroka, September 6, 25th anniversary celebration and Trail Rededication, October 4, Tom Recardi with Raptors, November 1, Button Appraisals with George and Gretchen Gauthier

The 25-year-old air conditioner died this past summer. It's been replaced with a much more efficient unit.

Again, we are planning major maintenance on the museum. We still need to solve the water problem in the cellar and we have been researching companies to do this work. We have applied for a Community Preservation Act grant and hope to start this process in the spring. Future plans include insulating the outside walls and repainting the south wall of the house – neither can be done until the work in the cellar is finished.

The hiking trails were restored this past summer. Trails were cleared of debris and were widened. New maps were created and new signs made. Some of the work was done on a volunteer basis: Doug Young (a Board member) did quite a lot of work as did an Eagle Scout candidate. And, some we paid for: Rob Meacham mowing and widening trails and Brian Mushenko creating the new signs.

Bob Meacham and a troop of Boy Scouts installed blue bird houses in our meadows. These were donated to us from the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary. We hope for some nesting blue birds next year.

A major event was held on September 6, dedicating the trails in memory of John Colleton. This was attended by members of the Colleton family as well as State Rep. Brian Ashe and State Senator Anne Gobi, presidents of several organizations and other dignitaries of the Town.

An exciting event was held in October – a play (*Forest of Mystery*) was held at night on our trails. Sponsored by the KHM, Monson Arts Council and Monson Rocks, it was attended by about 200 people and it got really good reviews from those attending.

We were the recipients of grants this year. The Cultural Council supported our Concert on the Lawn. The Makepeace Trust gave us money for the new signs on the trails.

We have closed the museum for the winter in order to save energy. We will open on April 3 with an Opening Reception for the Alan Robert Phillips Sculpture Garden.

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors are held on the third Monday of each month, 7:00pm with the exception of December, January and February.. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted, EmmaLadd Shepherd, Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS:

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