

Grist from Chase's Mill Newsletter - December 2019



Chase's Mill - early summer 2019 as work is about to begin to restore the windows, replace the siding, and complete repairs to the dam.



Chase's Mill December 2019 with new siding, restored windows, all work on the dam and mill pond complete. The small turbine has been refurbished and installed as well.

The Dragon Flies Again

In November, Margaret Chase Perry sent an email to the board that read, in part:

The dragon is up on the mill! Ninety-eight years ago my grandmother wrote in a letter to her daughter, "The golden sea horse is now on the mill and showing us the way of the wind and all its changes!"

And so it is.

The Dragon flew atop the Mill until one day it mysteriously disappeared. Now, with drawings by **Ellen Chase**, iron work for its mounting by **Rees Acheson**, and metal craft done by **Christy Sleezer**, MetalMazing.com the Dragon flies again!

This is a beautiful example and symbol of the generosity of people coming together to donate their talents, time, and resources to resurrect and return Chase's Mill to the community.



As we wrap up 2019, it is incredible to remember that just four years ago, we purchased the property and promised to return it to the community as a place where people of all ages could come together to learn, tinker, and create. While there will still be some things left to build, the weekend of July 17, 2020, we will officially deliver on that promise.

It Wouldn't Be Possible Without...

There are countless examples similar to that of the Dragon. Here are just a few more from this past year. And, if we've failed to include you on this list, please accept our apologies. There are many to thank for their generous donations of professional advice, services, and materials including:

- **Christy Sleezer** of MetalMazing.com of East Alstead, NH, **Ellen Chase**, and **Rees Acheson** for work on the Dragon
- Architect **Dan Bartlett**, who continues to generously donate a portion of his fees
- **The Fuzzy Brothers** of Walpole, NH, for donating a portion of their work in the grading of areas surrounding the Mill.
- **Perley Lund** of **Alstead Ironworks** for his donated metal work
- **Liberty Utilities**, for their donated critical help in diverting Warren Brook to allow the repairs to the dam

- **Larry Lessard (A&L Machining, S.Barre, VT) and Jay Boeri** for donations of time in refurbishing and installing the small turbine
- ***Kroka Expeditions*** - helping to excavate the Mill pond
- **Bob Brown**, building shelves, doing some masonry, overseeing construction, the day-to-day photo documentation of the project - and the many other things he does
- **Berny Cooper** - for his advice and consultation
- **Tom Nostrand**, Hinesburg, VT for his consultation on off-grid waterpower
- **David Haaren**, Westminster, VT for his consultation on human powered off-grid electricity
- **Joe Kohler** – for consultation
- **Russell & Jeff Putnam** – for volunteer labor in reviving motion in old frozen up machines, and recycling copper pipe
- **Juliana Stevens & Michael Nerrie *of Distant Hill Gardens***- previewing the Nature Trail and identifying invasives, and interesting plants on the Mill property
- **Stephanie Tickner** - keeping [our website](#) fresh and current
- **Juliana Stevens** - keeping our [Facebook page](#) filled with updates
- **Tafi Brown** - continues to document work on the Mill through her photography
- **Nancy Halden** - for her help with grants
- **David Emerson**, Canterbury, NH has given a long term loan of an old treadle (foot powered) lathe

To Our Generous Donors

Good ideas and best intentions wouldn't be possible without the financial resources to make it happen. We appreciate every dollar invested in making this happen. Special appreciation to Anonymous, and to our Founders' Circle: **Robert Beck, Alex and Robert Bley-Vroman, Jonathan Botkin, Ellen Chase and John Mann, Dan and Joyce Curll, Ann DeLancey, Rose Marie and John Hendry, James Howard, Jacqueline Lyon, Bruce and Nan Montgomery, Donna Sabin, and Sharon and Carl Spaulding.**

Additionally, there are many grant-making organizations who have expressed their commitment to our vision and their faith in our ability to make it happen by providing critical funding and oversight. This year's funding partners include: **LCHIP, the Putnam Foundation, The Kingsbury Fund, the Samuel P Hunt Foundation, the Bailey Charitable Trust, and Savings Bank of Walpole.**

MHHA In the News

A wonderful article about Chase's Mill written by board member Helen Frink is in the Fall Issue of **Old Mill News**. [Read it here](#). We are also happy that we were included in the **New Hampshire Preservation Alliance's** recent update on its Seven to Save endeavors.

Looking to 2020 - Programming

Although construction will continue next spring and beyond, our **Community Programming Team** is hard at work developing the Mill's varied offerings. Last August more than 30 people gathered at **LEAF Charter School** to brainstorm the details of what activities we would host. Since then, board member **Jim Gruber** has been leading a group of volunteers who meet monthly to refine those ideas. These are subject to change, but next July, the shop will be buzzing with classes such as **Woodworking, Timber Framing, and Hand Tool Sharpening**. The community room upstairs will feature offerings such as **Word Craft - Oral Traditions, Poetry, and Storytelling**. Other activities will include talks, tours, and exhibits on the **History and Future of Water Power**, plus **guided nature walks** along Warren Brook.



To quote Robert Frost, *...there are miles to go before I sleep*, but **hats off to this team: Ann Acheson, Jason Breen, Joyce and Dan Curll, Barb Davis, Juliana Stevens, and Margaret Chase-Perry** and to our three Antioch University graduate student interns: **Lea Kablik, Laura Jackson, and Emma Rohleder**. If you wish to help with or participate in a future community program at the Mill, please let us know. If you wish to help or participate in a future community program at the Mill, please let us know.

Our promise is to provide a safe, welcoming environment in which people of all ages and backgrounds can come together to learn, to build, to tinker, and to create.

Looking to 2020 - Needs

We're happy to announce that we have just received a **third grant from the Putnam Foundation** which will be used in 2020 to repair the chimney and hearth upstairs. We are actively applying to other organizations to meet construction and educational needs. While Chase's Mill will open in July, there are still many important items on our list, some of which will likely need to be phased over time. These include:

- Building an ADA lift - plans are done and approved - cost is about \$80,000
- Installing septic for grey water and designing and building parking spaces on the hill - cost is about \$30,000
- Emergency lighting
- Safety goggles, ear protection, and related items
- 50 folding chairs plus a few folding tables
- Assorted office equipment
- Hand tools for woodworking classes

To those who have made a year-end, tax deductible gift, thank you! If you're still thinking about it, there's still time. You can do so by mail to:MHHA / c/o SquareTail 39 Simon Street, Nashua, NH 03060, or online at our [website](#).

Finally, **Thank You** to **Jeff Ingram, Scott Worden, and the crew of Ingram Construction** who have managed the renovation since the beginning in 2017.

And lastly, to the all volunteer Board of Directors each of whom perform feats of magic in juggling professional and personal commitments to guide, shape, and insure that the many moving parts of this project come together. Each month, the Board contributes hundreds of hours providing professionalism, integrity, and transparency, and making sure that every aspect is consistent with our Vision, Mission, Goals, and Values.

From all of us, Happy Holidays!

Sharon Spaulding, President / Communications

Michael Chaladoff, VP / Treasurer

Betsy Anderson, Secretary & Governance

Bob Brown, Construction Manager

Helen Frink, Grants

Jim Gruber, Community Programming

Jim Howard, Collections Manager & Curating

Cathy Jahos, Communications

Bryony Romer, Fundraising