

Grist from Chase's Mill

September 2020



A new way to gather: Snapshot from our virtual series, *A Sense of Place*

A wise man adapts himself to circumstances, as water shapes itself to the vessel that contains it. — Chinese proverb

Dear Friends,

Like everyone, Chase's Mill is adapting to challenges presented by the coronavirus. Last May, we made the decision to postpone in-person classes and opening celebrations until summer of 2021. But far from taking a break, we've been busier than ever.

Virtual Events: To insure the health and safety of our community, instead of hosting events at the Mill, we launched a series of virtual events via Zoom. Entitled ***A Sense of Place***, the series has met with success and enabled about 100 people per session to explore what makes Chase's Mill and Mill Hollow unique. At our first event in May, we all had a chance to share our stories and memories. In June, **Ellen Chase** delighted us by reading some of her poems composed at Mill Hollow and also a few of her mother's, alternating with musician and composer **Randy Miller**, who performed fiddle tunes about milling. To watch the video, [click here](#).



In July, board members **Bob Brown** and **Helen Frink** (left) gave us a virtual tour of the mill, its waterworks, and the surrounding area. Using Heman Chase's working models, they also demonstrated how different mills work. To watch the event, [click here](#). Later this month, **Jonathan Botkin** will moderate a discussion, ***Stories from Shop Classes***, on the classes taught by Heman and Edith Chase. In October, we will hear about the life of suffragist and reproductive rights activist **Mary Ware Dennett**, Hartley Dennett's first wife. **Sharon Spaulding**, who married into the Dennett family, has spent the last 10 years sorting her papers and is working on a book about her life. Although Mary never lived in Alstead, her sons did, and after she died, her papers were relegated to the attic of the **Warren House** located across from the Mill. For details and to register, please [click here](#).

We've received many wonderful suggestions for the series, and have several programs in the works. Stay tuned.

Construction / Building and Site Improvements:

Thanks to the generosity of individuals, the hard work of grant writers **Helen Frink** and **Nancy Halden**, and sound financial

planning, we've been able to move forward with the following items:

- Construction of an ADA elevator;
- Installation of septic;
- Installation of emergency lighting;
- Building of storage space in the upstairs community room;
- Purchasing hand tools and safety equipment for the Shop, and the
- Design of enhanced parking on the hillside.



Grants and Donations: To date, in 2020 we've received grants from:

- Samuel P. Hunt Foundation: \$10,000,
- Savings Bank of Walpole: \$2,000,
- The Bailey Charitable Trust: \$5,000,
- NBRC/NHEP: \$78,622 (\$39,312 match required),
- NH Humanities CARES ACT: \$5,000,
- Nonprofit Emergency Relief Funds (NERF): \$11,193.75, and
- The Putnam Foundation allowed us to use a balance of \$5,300 from a 2019 award for general purposes.

Total grants received as of September 2020: **\$117,116.**

Individual Donations: While these grants have been critical to our ability to move forward, your help is still needed. We must raise \$39,312 to match the NBRC grant mentioned above. Additionally, as we transition to opening next year, operating costs will increase and we need to hire part-time staff. Also, our goal is to close out 2020 with \$53,000 in the bank to carry into 2021.

To those who have already made individual donations, **Thank You!** If you're thinking about doing so, you can do so [online](#) or mail a check to: Mill Hollow Heritage Association c/o SquareTail, 39 Simon Street, Nashua, NH 03060. A full list acknowledging individual donors will be published in our 2020 Annual Report.

A Special Thank You To: Surveyor **David Mann**, who has donated his services entirely and also to development consultant **David Bergeron**, who is giving us a discounted rate. We also deeply appreciate the help of our many volunteers who donate their time and energy.

On Other Fronts, Mill Hollow neighbor and timber framer **Chris Madigan** has generously donated a parcel of land that runs roughly from Prentice Hill Road to the Mill. Known as "Lake Edith," so named by Heman Chase in honor of his wife, it was used for demonstration purposes. We hope to close on this generous donation later this fall.

Changes to the Board of Directors:

After serving on the Board since 2014, and generously "re-upping" each year, **Cathy Jahos** is stepping down in October. Cathy has provided invaluable insight and advice on every front. Her "can do" attitude and gracious manner will be missed! Also stepping down this fall from his role as Treasurer and VP is **Michael Chaladoff**, who has served on the Board since 2017. Michael's operational experience, oversight controls, and rigorous planning have put us on sound financial footing. We'll miss his wry humor.



Joining the board in the role of Treasurer is **Mark Danahy** (left), who recently retired from a career in finance, and most recently as President of KeyBank Mortgage. Last year, Mark and his wife, Phoebe, came "home" to Alstead, where Phoebe spent many summers with her folks, Dan and Nancy Hall. Welcome, Mark! **Rejoining the board** is architect **Dan Bartlett**. Dan had stepped down in 2016 when his company was retained by the Mill Hollow Heritage Association to oversee the architectural needs of renovation. Dan, welcome back!

If you've ever considered joining the Board or another volunteer team, please let us know. The board meets monthly via Zoom and we live in four different states. Specifically, we're looking for individuals with experience in Operations and Management, Fundraising, and Communications. Our other volunteer opportunities include repair work, outreach, trail building/conservation, teaching, or assisting with a community workshop or program. To learn more, please emails us at: admin@millhollowheritageassociation.org.

What Is This?

Last month, we included photos of two mystery objects. If you guessed **tobacco plug cutter** on the left

and **apple peeler** on the right, you were correct!



Stay well. Stay connected. And check your email for upcoming virtual events.

Thank you,

Sharon Spaulding, President / Communications

Michael Chaladoff, VP / Treasurer

Mark Danahy, incoming Treasurer

Betsy Anderson, Secretary & Governance

Dan Bartlett, Architect, Building Team

Bob Brown, Construction Manager

Helen Frink, Grants

Jim Gruber, Community Programming

Jim Howard, Collections Manager & Curating

Cathy Jahos, Communications

Bryony Romer, Fundraising

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.
