



Dear Membership,

A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year 2023 to all our devoted members and supporters who make all this possible.

We have just completed a year of significant progress on MANY fronts. After a couple of years of Covid shutdowns obliterating our income stream as all weddings had to be cancelled, leaving our intrepid and dedicated Treasurer, Bob Young, recalculating weekly when we would run out of funds. Due to the diligence of your Trustees, and the frugality of our incredible staff, we survived the dearth of income, until the private event rentals came roaring back, resulting in one of our best years ever.

Some of our accomplishments this year include:

Replacing the roof and third floor windows on the Page house, which will receive a professional paint job in the spring, returning it to its former glory. We think Anne Page would be proud, especially with the new plaque out front honoring her commitment to the Suffragist movement;

A restoration of Mrs. Day's 10-footer shoe shop. What started out as a need for a new roof, snowballed into a major restoration, when we discovered that the less visible rear wall had been severely damaged and compromised by water leaks and more squirrels. Aspen roofing has volunteered the labor to shingle the roof. And a shout out to Rowley Restorations for their expertise on both these projects (please remember them both if you need work done);

This spring, we had to replace our toilet trailer and have awarded a contract to install a "dump station" on our existing sewer line, which will pay for itself the first year, by eliminating pump out fees;

We installed a pop-up sprinkler system for the Lawns at Glen Magna, thanks in part to another very generous donor, so our "Garden Wizard" Matthew Martin can spend his time on keeping the gardens beautiful, instead of wasting time dragging hoses around;

And OF COURSE, just as we started the installation, the pump in our irrigation well quit and needed replacement, which is done;

Roof on the veranda and wings of the Mansion at Glen Magna have been replaced;

Have been awarded a \$48,000 matching grant from MHC to replace the Milkmaid and Reaper statues to the roof of the Derby Summer House aka McIntyre Tea House and complete most of the interior restoration;

Received a \$2000 grant from Cummings Employee Directed Giving Program;

Land Swap completed by the voting membership 1/18.





And yet we still have a long way to go. Our letter of inquiry was accepted, and we are invited to apply for a matching grant of \$6,250 to fund a \$12,500 repair of Page House Conservatory.

We're still facing limitations on our use of the mansion at Glen Magna, due to a need to bring it fully up to code, so we can allow gatherings there again. The Mass Access Board in Boston denied our request to waive the \$225,000.00 elevator. We need to build a handicapped restroom, and MAY be required to put sprinklers inside the mansion, plus other minor code issues that could end up costing another \$500,000, that we don't have.



And we are dealing with some code issues on our Catering setup for our weddings. The Town inspectors are working with us to correct these before next May, when weddings resume, because they all know that if they shut down the weddings, the brides' mothers will find them, even if they change their names and leave the country.

All this progress has been possible because of the dedication and hard work of our Staff, Laura, Heather, Matthew, Christian and their part time assists and volunteers, our motivated Trustees, and all our generous donors, and members.



Due to your support, we raised over \$92,000 from Ellie's Challenge, the biggest fundraiser ever, making many of these hopes, dreams and aspirations a reality.

But we have so much more to accomplish. The business plan developed by Tom Page, George Saluto and Bob Young put us on a sound financial footing to cover our day-to-day operating expenses, but not the extraordinary preservation costs we face. It could cost up to \$750,000 to bring the mansion up to code, IF we can't get the elevator, and sprinklers waived.

Please join with me and open your hearts, your checkbooks and consider Legacy Planning and remembering DHS if you have a Donor Advised Fund (DAF). Make a recurring gift to the Preservation Builder's Club, allowing us to take a planned long-term approach to maintaining our buildings. Help us preserve the incredible History of Danvers and Salem Village, so our grandchildren continue to enjoy and learn from the lives and stories of the paths their Great-great grandparents chose, that brought us to here.



YMHaOS,

David McKenna, *president*