



Raising the roof ...

At the May Town Meeting, the town voted to appropriate funds for a new, historically appropriate roof for the Hartshorne House. The current roof, also town-funded, dates to 1990. The cost of the roof rose by 250% since then, but the new one should serve our old house until 2051, just 30 years short of the house's 400th birthday!

The Town Meeting served as a reminder that we are approaching the 92nd anniversary of the Town's purchase of the Hartshorne House.

In 1929, a series of widely attended Town Meetings focused their attention on Lake Quannapowitt. In addition to an article dedicating

\$1000 to improving the Lake itself, a variety of other interested parties considered the land around the lake. As the icehouses that had ringed the Lake began to fail because of electrical refrigeration, the Planning Board, led by architect Edward M. Bridge (who would later design the Post Office, the Police Station and the chapel at Lakeside Cemetery), adopted the goal of returning privately owned lakeside land to the town. The Board sponsored an article to acquire the Hill boathouse property along Spaulding Street. Another group agitated for bathhouses for the children. Meanwhile, tireless environmentalist and former selectman John J. Round introduced articles to acquire the land from Quannapowitt Avenue to Lakeside Cemetery on the west side of the Lake. The public sentiment on both sides of every issue ran high -- up to 600 people attended the packed town meetings! The Moderator commissioned subcommittees to meet to revise the articles. Through March, April and May, the town meetings met often, reconvening in September to try again.

Significantly, though much attention was paid to the south and west sides of the Lake, no mention was made of the Porter-Milton properties, which included the ramshackle old 'colonial' home on Church Street.

And then, on September 26th, a devastating fire ravaged the icehouse buildings behind and just outside the back door of the Hartshorne House. The cork-filled wooden icehouse walls combusted dramatically while fire fighters battled the blaze, just a few feet away from the run-down wood-frame dwelling house, but miraculously sparing it.

The Town Meeting returned to open session on October 14th to consider a Selectmen-sponsored article seeking to acquire the Porter Milton plot for park land. The plot included the burned out icehouses in 'the Meadow' and the 'so-called Lafayette House.' The \$14,999 request passed with 175 people in attendance. The deed came into town hands on October 30th, just one day after Black Tuesday, the stock market crash that signalled the worst economic event in the world's history. Had the town meeting been adjourned to return in November, the purchase might not have taken place.

Just another page in the living history of the Hartshorne House, reminding us of how close we came to losing the grand old building, and the importance of historic preservation.



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2021 - 2022**

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NEWSLETTER BY NANCY BERTRAND

Summer Fundraiser Coming in July



Summer Online Auction

**Beginning July 13th at midnight
and extending to
midnight on July 27th**

**Bids will be open for a special online auction
to benefit the maintenance and preservation of
the Hartshorne House.**

Bid on a variety of great prizes ranging from

**Restaurant Gift Certificates to
Red Sox Tickets to
Theatre Tickets and more!**

Major Credit Cards welcomed.

**The auction link to the will be on our website:
<http://www.hartshornehouse.org>**

Looking for just the right location for your celebration?

**Bring your special event to Wakefield's oldest public building to make
the occasion unforgettable!**

The Hartshorne House is a popular location for weddings, anniversaries, retirement parties, showers, etc. and is rented at **extremely reasonable rates**. All income from rentals goes directly towards the upkeep and maintenance of the House.

**To make rental arrangements, please call
781-245-3935 or visit the Association's website: www.hartshornehouse.org.**

Committee Notes

A reminder from the **Membership Committee**: if you have not yet renewed your membership to the Hartshorne House Association, please remember that 100% of your tax deductible membership donations are used for the maintenance and preservation of the House! Thank you for your continued support!



The **House Committee** is always alert to the myriad problems that can arise in a historic house. Within the past few months, electrical issues have been addressed and possible masonry problems have been examined.



Many thanks to the **Garden Committee** and our **Caretaker Allen Drinkwater** for maintaining the grounds -- the gardens are beautiful in spring and summer!

From the Fundraising Committee:

Many thanks to the **Dockside Restaurant of Wakefield** for their generous support! During the month of May, the local restaurant donated 10% of the check for dine-in and take-out on Saturdays in May. The fundraising committee and the Hartshorne House Directors would like to thank everyone who participated in making that event a success.



A virtual **Paint & Pinot** Night was held on Friday, May 7th. We would like to thank everyone who participated for making this event a success. About 25 women came together (virtually!) to paint two wine-glasses with a spring motif of dragonflies and flowers. For the cost of registration, the participants enjoyed their choice of either Pinot Noir or Pinot Grigio and the expert instruction of local artist Kim Scher from **kimscreations.net**.



The Hartshorne House held its 4th **Bone-Up Brewery Beer Tasting** on March 13th. This, our second virtual event, enjoyed great success with 80 tickets sold — representing an audience of 160! Each of four delicious **Bone-Up** brews was expertly paired with four unique cheeses, smoked meats and pickles in a custom-prepared charcuterie plate. Erin Fopiano provided welcoming remarks on behalf of the Hartshorne House Association, and Nancy Bertrand gave a local history presentation while the tasting was enjoyed. Our talented brewmasters, Liz and Jared Kiraly, discussed the beer and cheese pairings. Thanks to **Bone-Up Brewery** of Medford for their continued support!



Hartshorne House pencil sketch, 1940s