

# Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve May 2024 Report

## **Kirby's Mill:**

- Mill docent training took place on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Potential volunteers were instructed regarding the Volunteer Guidebook in addition to Mill information. Coordinating 2024 schedule.

## **Amity House Restoration:**

- Basement drywall ceiling and plaster walls prepped for painting.
- Removed paint from wood panel walls and stained to match, cleaned piano, and caulked porch columns. Other small projects to assist with furnishing per Shari's direction.
- Working with John to coordinate time for swale/drainage to be redone.
- Wrapping up drawings (code review, existing building calculations, floor plans, roof plans, elevations, electrical plans, life safety plans, etc.).

## **Historic Home Stabilization:**

- Confirmed with John to do complete exploratory demolition to better understand work needed to be completed at Kirby House and Garfield Hall.
- **Garfield Hall:** Amity House is wrapping up, and we cannot do major work on Kirby's Mill until August due to restrictions in the SAT grant process. Even then, it will be a professional team performing the construction. With that in mind, we have the availability and funds for the work on Garfield. We are looking forward to your decision on whether we can move forward with the champion application.
- **Kirby House:** Removed shower stalls to investigate concrete patio at kitchen. Signs of fissure and spalling. Worked with Ohlin and Reed to create a report and recommendation. Installed bearing jacks and wall where haunch was removed. Repairing front entry door to prevent further damage and deterioration. Removed kitchen floor for investigation. The subfloor is in good condition; the finished floor had been damaged and repaired with gypcrete patch.
- **We're happy to answer any questions on this or the proposed restoration projects.**

## **Invasive Species Management Team:**

- Invasive species removal 58.5 lbs. garlic mustard removed so far. Several dozen small barberry plants were removed by pulling. Meetings have been held in hopes of reinstating the full program under Chris Moore's license.

## **Programs/Marketing:**

- At the Park Director's request, a history display has been installed in one of the glass cases in Amity House living room.
- The Migratory Bird Hike on May 4<sup>th</sup> had 21 participants for the first hike / 23 for the second hike.
- The Friends fancy hat activity at the Goat Derby was very popular. We gave away 76 hats and helped participants decorate them.
- The Wildflower Walk May 11<sup>th</sup> had to be cancelled due to inclement weather, but the DIY version still available online.
- TLC, in addition to their usual weekly chores, have been removing bobbins and fishing line from tree branches, cleaned out bird nests in two dog bag holders, replaced a damaged toilet seat in Hilltop latrine, and put a hand sanitizer back up on Wonken Tonken.

## **Champion Plan:**

- To date, two full applications and eight LOIs have been submitted. In summary: A long term proposal for the entire Kirby estate has been offered which includes repairs, maintenance, and programming for 25 years. In contrast, Garfield Hall is a "stand alone", possible turnkey project that can be taken on at the earliest possible opportunity to take advantage of the 2024 construction season without interfering with work on Kirby's Mill.



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Kirby House Stabilization: Removed showers to investigate concrete slab at kitchen entrance. Concrete haunch removed at some point and concrete starting to fissure and spald. Structural engineer investigated and provided report and recommendations. Bearing jacks / wall installed.



Kirby House Stabilization: Removed damaged gypsum board and batt insulation where animals had started to dig into the garage foundation. Sealed with new sheathing and foam insulation. Removed dirt to prevent moisture from sitting against wood cladding. Started to remove non-original roll out laminate in kitchen. Sub floor in good condition, but finish floor was patched with gypcrete at some point.



Invasive Species Team / Programming: Weight garlic mustard "harvest" and happy hat crew at Derby Day.