

# Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve October 2024 Report

## **Kirby's Mill:**

- The exterior balcony overlooking the lake is in process of being built.
- If the weather holds, the carpentry team will move to the west face of the mill to replace the waterbox and flume outflow over the water wheel.
- We have engaged our structural engineer to review options for additional safety features for the swinging bridge. Once we have that information, we will provide a report.
- The water wheel had its annual maintenance this October – preservative was applied to the wood and the bearings were greased.
- There was a significant build-up of algae on the wheel throughout the summer. It was cleaned off in August, but quickly re-appeared. We are looking into options.

## **Garfield Hall:**

- Removed damaged shingles and installed new ice and water shield on the eave soffit. Re-framed the east porch roof and installed the felt and rolled roofing for Hinckley Roofing to tie into.
- Installed the interior concrete curb for the east patio paver field.
- Removed damaged bead board at kitchen addition and reinstalled board and batten to match original cladding.
- In the process of replacing timber rake soffit supports and brackets.

## **Amity House Restoration:**

- We have reached substantial completion (Rustic Slate Roof to install the living room fireplace damper). To date, our total expense for Amity House is \$33,536.30. We are very pleased with the way the restoration of Amity House turned out but believe a process review at some time could benefit everyone.

## **North House:**

- Please make the incoming champions aware that all gutters and downspouts are new, installed by Rustic Slate Roofing in 2023. A swale was installed in 2020 and new sill plate, rim joist and repaired floor joists in 2022. The original 1928 blueprints of North House are in the RJRD archives.

## **Utilities:**

- Friends' volunteer, Doug Wisnieski is working with the Park Director to repair the furnace at Chagrin Cabin and look into resolving a gas leak at Coach House.
- Doug Wisnieski worked with Chris Moore to build an extendable wrench to exercise the Lower Lake at Kirby Mill.
- With John's approval, Doug Wisnieski and Friends volunteers have been working on draining the pool.

## **Programs:**

- Sing Along: Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> hosted 15 singers and park enthusiasts.
- History Hike: Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> led by Lynn Richardson hosted 30 hikers.
- We are working with Park Staff to submit the Friends 2025 programming to be included in the 2025 RHP Brochure due by the end of the month.



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- Upcoming Events:
  - Friends Members Meeting: Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> (7pm-9pm) at the Lodge
  - Winter Wonders: Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 11am-4pm at the Lodge This is a major fundraising event and a much-anticipated Richfield tradition. If interested in baking cookies, [www.friendsofrhp.org/winter-wonders-bakery.html](http://www.friendsofrhp.org/winter-wonders-bakery.html)

### **RJRD / Friends of RHP MOU:**

- We appreciate all the work that is going into defining our partnership. Although our current MOU is OK, and we'd be alright with a simple extension for now; We acknowledge that there are parts of it that may have given some an inaccurate impression of our role. We are a hands-on, project-oriented group. For over ten years, we have worked with RJRD to identify mutually acceptable projects to benefit RHP. It may be helpful to review the scope of our previous projects on the following pages.

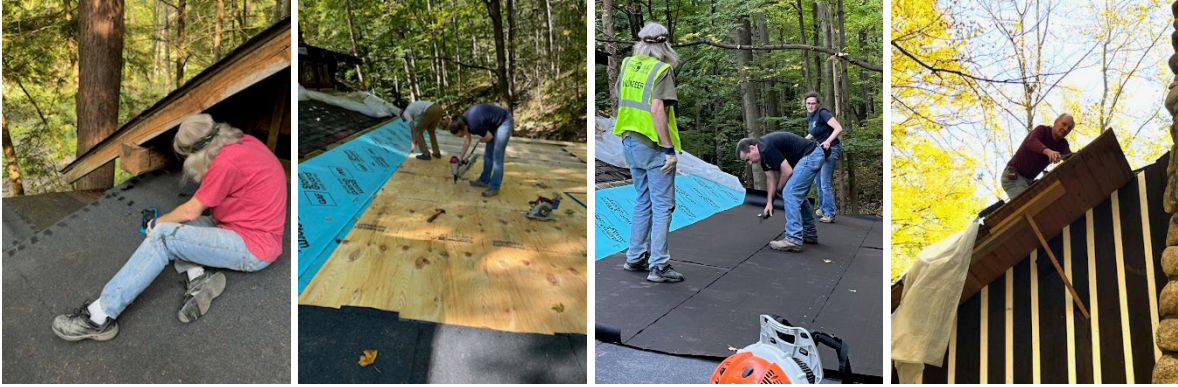
### **Fund Development/Grants:**

- Akron Community Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant towards the restoration of Garfield Hall.
- A first-time hiker in RHP saw the restoration going on at Garfield Hall. She was so impressed with the story of the hall and the work of the volunteer crew, that she sent the Friends a substantial donation of stock, valued at close to \$10,000 for our general fund.
- Experiences, in-person connections, and endorsements are powerful tools in raising funds. A project completed by one group benefits the entire park, giving horse riders, hikers, and maybe someday, even dancers a unique memory. Windfall gifts have played a major role in RHP. When it turned out that the concrete supports for the water wheel were going to cost \$75,000 instead of the \$35,000 estimate, our general fund covered it. When additional work for Amity House was being considered, the price more than doubled (\$35,000 in lieu of the originally budgeted \$15,000). The money in reserve gave us the ability to move forward.



Kirby Mill Wheel cleaned and sealed prior to winter.

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Existing low roof nail heads sealed. East porch re-framed and felt and rolled roofing installed.



Existing bead board at kitchen removed and new board and batten cladding installed.



Existing damaged timber beam and bracket removed and replaced.