

Village of Aurora Historical Society Annual Report to the Village Board January 18, 2023

The Memorandum of Understanding governing the Historical Society's relationship to the Village of Aurora states in Article 2.a: *"The President of the HISTORICAL SOCIETY shall present a detailed report of the previous year's finances and activities of the HISTORICAL SOCIETY to the Board of Trustees of the VILLAGE at the January meeting of the Aurora Board of Trustees."*

I. Finances

In 2022 the Village of Aurora Historical Society (AHS) had income of \$4,197.26 and expenditures of \$5,132.96. Its opening balance at the Cayuga Lake National Bank was \$10,045.36; its closing balance was \$9,109.66. Income included \$1,500 of donations from seven donors. Expenditures were primarily for restoration of Patrick Tavern (\$4,220.96). Our 2022 ledger is attached to this report. – Ken Larson, Treasurer

II. Activities

A. Patrick Tavern Restoration: AHS hired Yesteryears Restoration to carry out finishing work on the main floor of Patrick Tavern. The work including cleaning the walls and ceiling and sealing them with wood sealer; sanding, cleaning, and repairing the floor and sealing it with interior polyurethane sealer; trimming the windows and doors that did not have trim; painting the doors, window trim, and baseboards; filling nail holes and caulking. The work was completed in late October. In December Yesteryears Restoration began work on weatherizing Patrick Tavern, including building removable storm window frames, repair and weather stripping around the west door, and installing an insulated stairway door separating the first and second floors. Yesteryears Restoration also built a railing for the interior stairway and repaired a small leak in the roof. Further insulation work on the restroom and the basement pipes is underway.

B. Public events and activities in Patrick Tavern

- February through December, 36 markets: Tuesday Mobile Market (essential service, community benefit, small business support)
- April: Arbor Day Event (educational)
- June: a stop on the Reunion history walk (educational)
- November, AHS meeting (community)
- November, Gallery Event organized by a Wells student (educational; community)
- November-December, "Polished Silver Luncheons" for seniors (community), 3 luncheons, resuming at Patrick Tavern in April
- December, "Christmas in Aurora" (educational demos of heritage crafts, small business support, traditional Village event)

C. Proposed next steps for restoration and public events and activities in Patrick Tavern

- January 2023: overview of electrical system to accommodate additional supplemental heating.
- February-April 2023: Tuesday market re-opens on winter schedule. Work with interested Wells College faculty and students to schedule additional “non-traditional” gallery events to take place later in the Spring semester.
- April 2023: “Polished Silver Luncheons” resume at Patrick Tavern.
- May 2023: weekly markets resume as produce is available.
- Summer 2023: Community cookout at Patrick Tavern, suggested by Mayor Orman.

D. Archival storage

The Historical Society, working with the Historian, attempted to find a solution for intermediate storage for the portion of the Village historical archives that have been stored in the Cayuga Lake National Bank since summer, 2021. The archival materials that had previously been stored in our home at the Old Post Office Building are now divided among three locations: the Masonic Lodge, the Aurora branch of the CLNB, and Patrick Tavern. Finding a new intermediate location for the items in the CLNB was made urgent by the fact that our agreement for storing them there was to end on December 31, 2022.

Having failed to find any other location for the archive, we proposed building an insulated room in the basement of Patrick Tavern, but we could not get a go-ahead for the project from the Village in time to finish before the end of the year. As a final option we made plans to move the materials from the bank to the top floor of Patrick Tavern, using the exterior stairs, which are safer than the stairs inside the building. This move was called off by the Mayor. At a meeting between the Village Historian and the AHS Treasurer with the Village Clerk and the Mayor, the Mayor volunteered to find a home for the archive and to arrange with the CLNB to continue holding the materials until that home could be found.

The AHS continues to be eager to see a solution to finding an appropriate location for the village historical archives. The Archives and Collection are essential to its mission, and are among the designated ‘resources’ addressed in the Memo of Understanding, in conformity with State law (Arts & Cultural Affairs 57.07). The Village’s ownership of these resources falls under Records Management (the Clerk is the Records Management Officer) and are specifically designated the responsibility of the Historian (Arts & Cultural Affairs 57.09).

To discuss the disposition of the archives, our ongoing work to restore Patrick Tavern, and its plan for community use in the context of the existing Memo of Understanding, we respectfully request a meeting of the AHS officers with the Mayor, the Historian, the Clerk, and the Deputy Mayor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Leffingwell, President, Village of Aurora Historical Society
Ken Larson, Treasurer, Village of Aurora Historical Society

Attachment: 2022 Ledger of the Village of Aurora Historical Society