



November 18, 2019

Dear Friend of Beaver Island,

Its simple...We all love Beaver Island! Whether you are a property owner, member of the society or a visitor Discovering Beaver Island for the first time we can all agree our community is magical and THIS PLACE MATTERS!

The purpose of this letter is to re-introduce you to the Beaver Island Historical Society, recap some recent success and invite you to be our partner! In 2017 we welcomed Lori Taylor-Blitz to Beaver Island as the Executive Director of the Society. Lori has brought new ideas, vision and experience to this role. Under her leadership we have expanded and strengthened museum events, exhibits, programs and partnerships. Here are a few recent highlights:

- Black history presentation
- Restoration of Zoltan Sepeshy mural
- Picnic at the Point speaker series
- Expanded and enhanced Museum Week
- Historical Walking Tour
- Smithsonian Waterways exhibit

Another area where we benefit from Lori's leadership is her grant writing expertise. In the past 3 years BIHS has been awarded many grants. Please know our efforts are ongoing as we work toward furthering our mission and being a good steward of our time, talents and treasures. We are now focused on our Mormon Print Shop Museum. The Mormon Print Shop is an anchor of our island community and a core piece of our culture. It was constructed in 1850 and will soon be 170 years old!

As stewards of this incredible piece of history we have invested in a three-part restoration project. Phase 1 is now COMPLETE. The work included reconstruction of the porch, front façade, period appropriate window replacements and a new well. NOW, Phase 2 is underway. This is the addition of 1,950 square feet behind the current building. The addition will feature the restored WPA Zoltan Sepeshy mural and provide new gallery space showcasing our unique island history. FINALLY, Phase 3 will be the renovation of the original Print Shop building and is planned for the fall of 2020.

The Historical Society has received bequests from several sources. These generous gifts have funded over \$600,000 towards our three-part expansion and renovation and puts us at 75 percent of our fundraising goal. We realize the key to success is strong partnerships and we are inviting YOU to help us preserve one of our nation's historic treasures because This Place TRULY Matters! Will you help us cross the finish line?

Your donation will help pay for the Sepeshy mural restoration, purchase new exhibit cases and furnishings for the museum addition, provide funding for a stamped Archipelago design in the gallery floor and complete needed renovations inside the Print Shop proper (for example a much-needed HVAC system).

We believe this place DOES matter. The Print Shop Museum's ongoing work is an investment in our community and legacy. It is an economic driver for island tourism. Plus, the building and the quality of our island labor and materials is an important exhibit in itself! If you have any questions or would like additional information about supporting our final push to finish this construction project, please feel free to contact Lori or me at any time. We are also happy to meet in person to discuss our building plans.

Sincere Appreciation,

Angel Welke
Chair, Museum Fund Development Committee
Beaver Island Historical Society

lefevream@hotmail.com
(231) 448-2374 is my home telephone number.

Lori Taylor-Blitz
Executive Director
Beaver Island Historical Society

bihistory@tds.net
(906) 361-2031 cell