an afternoon visit to the 1750 Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion in Portsmouth, N.H. A dozen attendees joined this tour, which was arranged by board member and WBH past-president Amanda Nelson.

In the great room of the 1710 house during the afternoon were the Weeks Brick House gift shop featuring books, apparel, and decorative items; and the display of the many offerings for this year’s silent auction fund-raiser.

The popular silent auction was once again coordinated by board member Cathy Wescott. The Weeks Brick House thanks the following donors of the featured auction items: Boston Red Sox, Chipotle, Country View Restaurant, Hannaford, King Arthur Flour, Kurgo, Palace Theatre, Strawberry Banke Museum, Sweet Grass Farm, T-Bones Restaurant, Trader Joe’s,
President’s Report: Another quiet year, but membership inches up slightly

By Tom Ayres, President
Weeks Brick House & Gardens

The past year has been another very quiet year at the Weeks Brick House & Gardens. Our new tenant moved in October 10, 2016 and has been very satisfied. (Ed. note: This tenant moved out in November 2017 to relocate for his new employment.)

Cynthia Smith continues to provide her critical role as treasurer, in addition to being our primary contact with the tenant, and she handles many of our routine maintenance needs, including coordinating the driveway repairs last year. We thank her very much for her dedication to our organization.

Steve Pike continues to provide his excellent job of managing the maintenance of the house, grounds and trails. His spring work plan for the annual “Clean-up Day at the Weeks Brick House & Gardens” was put into action by a number of willing workers: Amanda Nelson, Cynthia Smith, Reg Bacon, Skip Weeks, Kate White, Mark Willis, and me. The weeds in the gardens and flower beds were removed, fruit trees trimmed, dead trees removed, and lots of mulch was hauled via wheelbarrow. Steve is working with Richard Irons, a Restoration Mason and an expert in antique masonry, to evaluate the brick work restoration needs of our house.

Mary Groebner continues to provide her excellent work in handling our many administrative responsibilities, including: mail, email, phone calls, and the mailing of newsletters.

Cathy Wescott, who, along with Amanda, manages our Weeks Brick House Facebook page, was pleased to report that we have over 200 friends on Facebook. Our Weeks Brick House membership has increased this past year. We now have 59 members, up from 55 last year. Additional members are most welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas D. Ayres

Weeks Brick House is part of town identity on local police patch

The Weeks Brick House is recognized as a central component of the town identity on the new embroidered uniform patch of the Town of Greenland Police Department.

At the annual meeting, board member Cynthia Weeks, a Greenland resident, circulated sample patches to attendees so they could take an up-close look at the new design. In full color the design depicts the dark blue water of Great Bay, a light blue cloud-speckled sky, and a gundalow skirting a green promontory, upon which is the brick-red 1710 Weeks House.

Thanks to Alex Wescott, WBH lands on YouTube

During this year’s Annual Meeting, Alex Wescott, son of WBH board member Cathy Wescott, made time to interview board members about their involvement with WBH and their views on preservation. The resulting video, The Weeks Brick House and Its Helpers, is viewable on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFW3XFmktjM) as well as on the WBH Facebook page. Thanks Alex!

Interviewed for the project were board members Tom Ayres, Amanda Nelson, Steve Pike, and Cynthia Smith, plus administrative assistant Mary Groebner.
Scenes from the Annual Meeting – Sept. 16 & 17, 2017

Above left and below right, 2017 Weeks Brick House Annual Meeting attendees gathered on the grounds of the Weeks Brick House & Gardens on Saturday, Sept. 16 to enjoy the comfortable-and-cousinly conviviality of the Wine & Cheese Social. The wine-and-cheese event has become a staple of the WBH Annual Meeting in recent years as a worthy lubricating buildup to the final bidding on the Silent Auction offerings inside the brick house.

At left, WBH board president Tom Ayres prepares for his presentation on one Weeks family’s involvement in pursuit of a slice of the Mark Hopkins estate. The wealthy railroad baron died in 1878, but for more than a half-century, the lure of windfall inheritance kept the case alive for supposed “cousins” across the U.S.

The Silent Auction raised $452.50 for restoration work at the Weeks Brick House. Corporate donors included: Boston Red Sox, Chipotle, Country View Restaurant, Hannaford, King Arthur Flour, Kurgo, Palace Theatre, Strawberry Banke Museum, Sweet Grass Farm, T-Bones Restaurant, Trader Joe’s, and Yankee Magazine.

2018 DUES ARE DUE
Renew & Contribute Today!

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Weeks Brick House & Gardens Membership Form
(Use this same handy form for annual renewals or for new membership! … Or join/renew online!)

Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
City/Town: __________________ State: _______ Zip: __________
Phone: _______________________________ E-mail: _______________________

Please indicate your preference: [ ] E-mail newsletter in PDF format [ ] Hard-copy postal mail newsletter

Please return this form with payment to: Weeks Brick House & Gardens, P. O. Box 93, Greenland, NH 03840. Thank You!

Make check payable in U.S. currency to “Weeks Brick House.” All gifts are tax deductible. Thank You!
2017 Annual Meeting …

and Yankee Magazine. The total raised by the silent auction was $452.50, which was added to the newly-designated Weeks Brick House Maintenance Fund (See the separate article on page 1).

After the winners of the silent auction goodie were announced, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. attendees enjoyed wine and cheese in the gardens, toasting the auction winners (… or commiserating over bids that came up short). Weeks family cousins reveled in this opportunity to connect, compare notes, and share family lore. This event was coordinated by Mary Groebner, Amanda Nelson, Cynthia Smith, and Cathy Wescott.

On Sunday morning, event registration and the WBH gift shop opened bright-and-early at 9 a.m. Early arrivals ambled the gardens, or toured the brick house interior.

This year’s Sunday morning speaker in the great room was board president Tom Ayres, who presented his research on the foggy intersection – and ultimately the non-intersection – of a Weeks family in Maine with the estate of California railroad magnate Mark Hopkins (1813-1878).

At noon on Sunday attendees gathered for the Annual Meeting Luncheon at the nearby Greenland Church Parish Hall. The just-right luncheon fare was thanks to the efforts of Mary Groebner, Amanda Nelson, and Cynthia Smith.

After lunch, WBH&G president Tom Ayres opened the business meeting, and presented his report on the past year (see page 2). Treasurer Cynthia Smith presented her report for January-September 2017 (income $12,512.59; expenses $7,881.24; checkbook balance $11,013.72). Board members Tom Ayres, Reg Bacon, Cynthia Smith, and Skip Weeks were re-elected unanimously to new three-year terms. Also re-elected unanimously were current officers Tom Ayres, president; Skip Weeks, vice president; and Cynthia Smith, treasurer.

President Ayres announced the donation of four chairs to the WBH collection. Gay Neale of Virginia donated four stenciled rush-seat side chairs that belonged to Satchel Weeks (1828-1915) of Wakefield, N.H. They will be picked up next April.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m., concluding another conclave of cousins.

‘Chimney Fund’ morphs …

however, have revealed that moisture is penetrating the west wall of the house, and thus repairs to brick and mortar on the west wall have moved ahead in priority of repairs to the west chimney.

Because the first tenet of historic house preservation is “securing the envelope” from the elements, the wall repairs will be addressed first. The west chimney still needs attention, but it is stable at present.

The “Chimney Fund,” therefore has been redefined to apply to all manner of brick-and-mortar-related repairs and maintenance. Thank you to all generous Chimney Fund donors – past, present, and future – for contributing to preservation of the 1710 Weeks Brick House.

Plumbing upgrade enables tenants of 1710 house to enjoy reliable conveniences of 21st century life

The glory and privilege of living in an authentic 1710 brick house has been valued by our tenants through the years. But in more recent times, the tenant experience of living with all-but-obsolete plumbing “conveniences” has not been quite so glorious. In October the WBH board of directors approved plumbing repairs and replacements (estimated at $2500-$3000) that will elevate the “modern conveniences” in the 1710 house to meet basic expectations of 21st-century living.

The work is being done while the house is between tenants, so upon completion the project should make the Weeks Brick House more appealing to prospective renters.

Of course the plumbing work is more involved and more costly than patching a hole in plaster or replacing a board on the deck. Member donations for maintenance projects like this one are welcome, as it is the steady rental income from contented occupants that sustain and preserve the Weeks Brick House & Gardens.

www.WeeksBrickHouse.org

Greenland, NH 03840
P.O. Box 93
Weeks Brick House
Fall 2017