

Ebb and Flow

*Reversing Falls
Sanctuary
Newsletter*

July 2021

REVERSING FALLS SANCTUARY



REVERSING FALLS SANCTUARY and BROOKSVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVE GRANT

The Reversing Falls Sanctuary (RFS), in collaboration with the Brooksville Free Public Library, has received a Maine Community Foundation Community Building Grant to fund its Community Tech Ambassadors (CTA) program. This program, running June 2021- June 2022, will begin by pairing a trainer with a small group of volunteer trainees. These trainees will learn all aspects of internet communication via virtual platforms such as Zoom, Facebook Live and YouTube as well as tips for producing their own content. As a certified CTA, you will become part of our outreach program to help increase digital literacy in your community. An orientation program, July 28, 10-12am at the Brooksville Library, will outline the scope of the program for anyone who might be interested. It is hoped that all ages from teen to senior will participate in this FREE program.



If you want to attend the initial orientation contact Daksha Baumann, janetlynn821@gmail.com 326-0631 or Brook Minner, brook@brooksvillelibrary.org 326-4560

Ricky Leighton, trainer for this program, is a local videographer and filmmaker with years of experience in media production for Esquire Digital, a digital marketing agency.

More information about both organizations can be found at: reversingfalls.org and brooksvillelibrary.org.



Reversing Falls Sanctuary and the Brooksville Free Public Library are grateful to have their programs supported once again by the Maine Community Foundation.

Brooksville 11th Annual Memorial Gathering

Come join with family, friends, and neighbors to remember our Brooksville citizens who died in 2020. On Sunday, July 18 from 3:00 – 4:00 pm at Dodge's Point Town Landing, we will share quiet moments and music, remembering Jan Harford, John Eysenbach, Harald Smedal, Jeanne Kiem. Richard Gray,

Katherine Clifford, Andrew Fontaine, Joe Meltreder, Jr, and Karl Webster.

In case of rain, we will hold the event at the Town House. For more information, call Joan MacCracken at 326-0196.



*Reversing Falls Sanctuary — 20 Years of Building Improvements
And
A Steeple Report*

The Reversing Falls Sanctuary building has been a work in progress for the past 20 + years, and so much has been accomplished.

Structural repairs and improvements since 2000 include:

- Foundation repair on the south side
- Roofing
- Sill and foundation post of steeple
- Interior floor renovation by rug removal and painting
- Mold remediation
- Cellar moisture barrier and insulation installed
- Bulkhead installed on south side
- New staircase at entry
- Unsafe trees removed from north side
- Handicap access ramp
- French drain east side foundation
- Interior painting of sanctuary room
- Labyrinth painted on floor
- Lighting system and hanging system installed for use as gallery
- Two heat pumps installed
- Rain barrel installed for seasonal water
- Interior plaster repaired



Access walking path on north side improved with gravel and wood chips
Entry walkway and garden
Parking area graveled and graded
Window dresser insulated panels installed in vestry and partial sanctuary
Rennai heater installed
Raised interior platform rebuilt
Septic system installed with parking area increased
Well drilled
South side roof trim, new gutter and downspout
Kitchen and bathroom insulated
Water plumbed into building
New bathroom (in use but not yet completed)
Vestry turned into kitchen: new paint, floor, refrigerator, and storage shelves
New windows installed in bathroom and kitchen
East and south exterior sides painted
New signs for RFS and Gallery Within
Insulated skirt installed to protect incoming water line from freezing
New garden beds installed using soil excavated when the insulated skirt was built

Still to come this summer and fall: Two insulated exterior doors, new roofing on kitchen, removal of old brick chimney, deck and stairs built at bathroom exterior door.

Some of these improvements were completed by contractors, but many of them have been accomplished by scores of willing, skilled volunteers.



AND NOW LET'S CONSIDER THE STEEPLE:

First some terms. The “steeple” is composed of a few sections. The bottom section that houses the entry door is the *tower*, next up with the round window is the *lantern*, then comes the *belfry* which houses the bell, and last is the *spire*.

It is evident to anyone who has been in the building that this structure has multiple, severe problems. The spire has been leaking causing stains to the sanctuary ceiling and wall (halted for the present). The fabulous ornate woodwork, trim and cladding has deteriorated in many areas and



large bits of trim are blowing off in strong windstorms. The foundation piers supporting the entire structure are substandard and the join between the sanctuary roof and lantern section is a major point of deterioration and in need of a newly designed cricket to shed water from the join.

In 2016, the Board of Directors received a grant from the Maine Community Foundation that helped us secure the services of Ames Associates, an architectural and engineering firms, to perform a building assessment. This was the first necessary step before an organization can apply to the Maine Steeples Fund.

They outlined a prioritized work schedule that included cost estimates. At that time, repairs on the building that related to the steeple and its connecting points to the sanctuary was estimated to be about \$50,000. The Maine Steeple Fund grant is awarded in a matching format. The Board felt we could secure our half of the matching funds using a variety of fundraising strategies. Bob Poole, so familiar with the history of this building and its current deteriorated state agreed to be the contractor for the steeple repair project. After hearing from a principal at the Maine Steeples Fund that our application was being looked on favorably, Bob Poole began some initial work on the lantern. He set up staging and took out the round window to repair in his shop.



After weeks and months without a definite response about our application, another Maine Steeple Fund principal, the manager, felt the need to make a site visit to clarify some issues. At that visit he determined that one of his sticking points was the need for a copper roof on the bell deck and used at other points as flashing. His new scope of work exceeded that of the Ames report and increased the bottom line to about \$150,000. He refused to fund our project as initially conceived. Since RFS has limited funds available and lacks a fundraising committee or small group to guide this effort, all work on the steeple has been halted.

Unless there is a community wide movement to support a steeple repair/restore program, the Board will be moving to begin the work to limit further deterioration to the main building. This may entail reducing the structure by one or two levels and re-roofing with a new profile. It may even transpire that the tower foundation is so compromised that the entire tower/entry needs to be rebuilt.

So that is what has been going on with the steeple. Please get in touch with the Board if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions for going forward. 326-0631.

Daksha Baumann
President, RFS Board of Directors

A Personal Note

Because I have agreed to again become the pastor at the Brooksville United Methodist Church, and to take on the Penobscot church as well, I will be scaling back my responsibilities at RFS. I will no longer send out community notices or post them on the bulletin board. And the program team and the board are discussing other means of communicating RFS news and activities rather than a monthly newsletter. We will keep you informed with about developments with regard to communication.

Gary

Coming Events

Sunday, July 11, 4 p.m. Women's Circle

Sunday, July 18, 3 p.m. Brooksville Memorial Gathering at
Dodge's Point Town Landing

Tuesday, July 20, 4 p.m. Program team

Wednesday, July 28, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Community Tech Ambassador
Training at the Brooksville Library

Sunday, August 1, 4 p.m. Women's Circle

Photos of the spire and the round window are from the Ames Assoc.
report.

Photos are of the garden planting workday are by Pat Wheeler.

Information: www.reversingfalls.org