



Help Us Save the General Israel Putnam Homestead !!

Newsletter from Thomas M. Page, President

President of the Danvers Historical Society

March 6, 2017

In my most recent Presidential Newsletter I revealed the following:

[The General Israel Putnam Homestead, the Page House, and the McIntire Tea House alone are in need of an excess of \\$1,000,000 to repair and restore.](#)

As you already know, we are actively in the process of restoring The Samuel McIntire Tea House, our 223-year-old Registered National Historic Landmark. The Society applied for and received \$50,000.00 matching grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. As of today, the Society has collected \$30,000. Thank you to all who have contributed to this match to date!

This project will be accomplished over two phases at a cost estimate of \$167,000 and \$200,000. Our fundraising efforts are currently local, regional and nationwide.

My appeal to you in asking for your help in saving/preserving the General Israel Putnam Homestead is not a solicitation for money but for your SUPPORT!

After an extensive evaluation, your Board of Trustees has determined that the Society is not financially capable of funding a \$200,000 restoration/preservation project for this treasured Danvers property.

In November of last year, the Board of Trustees voted, by a 2/3 majority, to explore the sale of the General Israel Putnam Homestead according to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Danvers Historical Society and the Putnam Family Trust. The initial stages of this exploration involve the selection of the Non-Profit 501 (c) 3 Organization who desires to purchase the Homestead at not less than most recent appraised value of \$360,000. This Non-Profit Organization must also be willing to restore the Homestead according to specifications declared by the Danvers Historical Society at an approximate value of \$200,000.

According to the By-Laws of the Danvers Historical Society; Section 14 states:

"In major decisions, such as the acquisition and/or sale of real estate, mortgaging and/or encumbering any assets of the of the Society, a two-thirds roll call vote of the Board will decide an issue, to be ratified at the next regular meeting of the Society by a majority vote of the membership present and voting. The membership shall be notified fourteen days in advance of the issue to be voted on at such a meeting."

The Danvers Historical Society will be distributing an 'Information Package' to all our Members. In order to be eligible to vote, a Member must have submitted their dues

declaring their status for 2017. The 'Information Package' will be sent via U.S. Postal Service and will include historical information describing the process which led the Society to decide on this course of action.

Your package will include information on the Ballot Options as well as place and time of this Special Meeting. *Please confirm your membership status by Friday, March 31st.*

Again, we appreciate your support in this effort to restoring and renovating the General Israel Putnam Homestead.

Thank You so Very Much!!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas M. Page".

Thomas M. Page, President
dhs@danvershistory.org
Danvers Historical Society

Danvers Historical Society, 11 Page St., PO Box 381, Danvers, MA 01923 ~ 978-777-1666