



## February President's Message

As the days grow longer and less cold, the start of the 2023 Camp Meeting season begins to seem less distant, and we start to look forward to another summer of fellowship and communion with our friends and neighbors in the Campground and the larger island community.

The MVCMA board held its winter meeting on February 11, 2023, and I write to highlight some of the topics that we addressed during the meeting:

### Planning for Summer Services

The lineup of preachers for the 2023 camp meeting season was discussed, along with the Board's desire to again hold one or more joint services with Union Chapel and other communities of faith on the island, as we did for the first time last summer.

### Campground Engagement Sessions

As we had communicated in the November Campground Update, the Board will be hosting small engagement sessions via Zoom this spring in order to better listen, engage, and foster continued dialogue with our Campground community. While we will be sharing some information regarding governance of the organization, these will largely be open sessions for you to ask questions on any topic (similar to the large in person Leaseholder Meetings held each summer). Dates are being planned throughout March and April. Please be on the lookout for a separate email invitation and details on how to sign up for a session soon.

## **4 Montgomery Square**

Late last year we shared that the official closing on the purchase of 4 Montgomery Square took place on December 19, 2022 – and all decisions related to the use and any capital work would be determined at our February meeting. Since closing, we have had some preliminary activity inside the building related to ensuring proper winterization steps were taken, as well as changing over of utility accounts from the prior owner (Eversource electric, Xfinity/Comcast internet, etc.).

The plan for use of the building in 2023 is that the upstairs apartments at 4MS will be used to house our General Manager and any visiting clergy in need of housing. The downstairs apartment is not planned to be rented at this time, and the gallery space is being held for MVCMA use. This may include Board meetings, committee meetings, or any group which desires or needs a weather-proof location (yoga, book club, mahjongg, bible study, etc.). If you are interested in use of the space, please contact the Office.

In preparation of occupancy this summer, capital funds have been approved by the Board to complete internal work to make some electrical and plumbing upgrades, as well as paint both apartments and refinish the floors. Once that work is complete, it is expected that some new furniture and appliances will be purchased as well. It is expected that further decisions regarding external and internal repairs will be made at future Board meetings this year. The Office is also planning to coordinate a Book Sale out of the gallery space at 4MS, at which point Leaseholders will be invited to see the space.

## **Phase V Tabernacle Project**

A comprehensive email communication specific to the Phase V Tabernacle project will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks. This update will include timeline information and updates on the ongoing efforts to engage with town and state departments. The Board is expecting to receive a revised cost estimate for the project in mid-March, therefore no new financial information will be included in this next communication. The Board has scheduled a special meeting on March 18 to review the updated cost information, at which point a second project update can be expected to follow.

The "Raise our Voices - Raise the Roof" fundraising Campaign continues. The goal of the campaign is to have enough money to start the roof replacement

this fall. A letter outlining the campaign will be going out to all cottage owners, and other potential donors, in April. We look forward to your continuing support of our amazing Tabernacle.

### **Other Capital Projects**

As noted in the December update, work was approved and is in progress in the Tab House and Office buildings. Tab House repairs are focused on moisture mitigation and dampness issues, with HVAC improvements being made in the downstairs units, while the spring will see replacement of significant furniture pieces in advance of occupancy this summer. The Office refresh is focused on the interior spaces for now, with the walls being painted and the floors being refinished. Opportunity to add ADA accessibility via the rear entrance is being investigated for later this year.

Additional funding was approved at this recent meeting to repair the pavement across numerous sidewalks and streets around the Campground. We continue to appreciate all your efforts in bringing these opportunities to our attention.

### **Audit Results & Financial Reporting**

Audit procedures for 2021 have been completed, and preparation for 2022 fieldwork is beginning. A separate communication from the Treasurer will be sent which will include 2021 audited and 2022 preliminary financial results, as well as the 2023 approved Operating Budget. In addition to the financial reports, commentary on the audit findings will be shared, as well as information related to any extraordinary changes year over year.

### **Fire Safety**

The Board was honored to invite Oak Bluffs Fire Chief Nelson Wirtz to address the Board on matters of fire safety within the Campground. Chief Wirtz made a very helpful data-driven presentation on the unique challenges posed by the Campground as to fire safety, and the importance of any additional preventive measures that we can take. He expressed particular concern as to using candles in lanterns during Illumination. We intend to invite Chief Wirtz to make a presentation to interested cottage owners this summer.

Sincerely,

**Andrew Patch**  
**MVCMA President**

---



*Copyright © 2023 Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

