



Post Office Box 4077
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January 25, 2012

Greetings,

The February meeting will be held on Sunday, February 12th at 2:00 in the Great Room at Havenwood on Christian Avenue in Concord. The general meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Board of Directors which will begin at 1:00 in the same place.

This is an important meeting as the main item for discussion and voting will be the approval of the new by-laws for the Society. Esther Crowley has been working on them since the fall and they were presented at the January meeting where some minor changes were suggested. The final version is attached to this letter.

The Society ended up last year very well financially. We continue to strengthen our position each year and for the last several years our income has exceeded our expenses. This is due primarily to the hard work of the members both earning money with fund raising activities and by controlling expenses through careful management.

We have several projects lined up for this year to improve the museum experience for visitors to our facility at the Hopkinton Fairgrounds. One very important one is to add some permanent lighting and another is to create some individual areas for the blacksmith shop, the carpenter shop, and Maria Putnam's work area. We have several pieces of machinery that belongs in each area and by creating separate spaces, their function will be better explained.

We plan to take the coach on the road again this year and have already received several requests for it. These events give us an opportunity to tell the story of the Abbot-Downing Company and also our mission.

A big event this year will be the opening of the new Abbot-Downing Elementary School in Concord. We plan to play a part in the ribbon cutting ceremony and to prepare exhibits for permanent display in the building.