



## Historical Society Hopes to Retire Mortgage And Needs a Little Help from Its Friends

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Photo on the Left: The Stanwood House at 323 Washington Street was approved as a Single Building Historic District by a vote of Special Town Meeting.

Photo on the Right: What was the living room at 323 Washington Street will be used by the Society as one of three exhibit spaces on the ground floor.

“We’re getting very close to a big day for the Society: paying off the mortgage on 323 Washington Street,” said Jared Parker, president of the Wellesley Historical Society.



Parker explained that the Society is making a big push to raise funds to retire the mortgage by the end of June. “We’ve made great headway thanks to the generosity of a lot of folks in town, including a big effort recently by the Wellesley Club and other generous donors.” The Society made a mortgage payment of \$264,000 in March, which left a balance of \$292,000; another major payment of \$104,000 will be made in a few weeks, leaving \$88,000 needed by the end of June.

“I’m hoping that we can do it by June 30,” said Parker “which would mean that July 4 — Independence Day — will have extra significance for all of us committed to this worthy project. We’ve talked with a number of people who are thinking about giving, and we say to them — now is the time!”

On the last day of 2012, the Society purchased the Stanwood House at 323 Washington Street for a million dollars and realized that \$400,000 in critical renovations such as handicapped bathrooms, ramps, and the like would be part of deal. “There’s no way we could meet our own and the town’s guidelines without making the building handicapped accessible,” Parker noted adding that “our big-picture plans were dependent on receiving town and state approval for qualifying as a Single Building Historic District. We achieved this, thanks to our team, which has included first-rate architects, legal experts, engineers, construction manager, and committed volunteers all experienced in such matters.”

The 5,000 square foot building provides much-needed space for collections, archives, and administration. “We’ve been based in the wonderful 1824 Dadmun- McNamara House adjacent to the Community Center for the last 50 years,” said Parker “It’s a great little building, but there’s no question that we outgrew it about 15 years ago.”



The Society’s present location in the Dadmun-McNamara House has very limited exhibit space; these paintings are in an upstairs hallway.

When the mortgage is paid off, the Society will have completed Phase 1 of its multi-year improvement program with the goal of offering the town and its residents a first-class facility to present, examine, and archive the town’s history.

“The Wellesley Club and our generous donors all know the importance of securing and celebrating our history,” said Parker “and we hope to get as many people as we can to pitch in and help us celebrate the Fourth of July this year with some extra special fireworks.”

Contributions can be made on line at [wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org/capital](http://wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org/capital) or mailed to 229 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA 02481. Contact Executive Director Amanda Fisher at 781-235-6690 for more information.

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