



Jorge Casas, a resident of East Andover, caught this dramatic lightning strike near Highland Lake during an August storm.

Hub from page 1

ceived to date have come from 46 individuals or families, six local businesses, and five foundations. Community-supported fund-raising events, including the July “Food ‘n’ Fiddle” fest at the Andover Barn, have accounted for the remaining 7%. (“Food ‘n’ Fiddle” itself attracted well over 100 attendees and brought in \$5,001.)

Chase added: “Though we still have work to do to reach our new goal, we’re confident that the Hub’s base of community support is more than sufficient to achieve it within the next few months.”

The campaign’s three components, announced last September, include (1) the replacement of a badly leaking roof, (2) the provision of universal access to the building, and (3) installation of a community kitchen.

The roof replacement was completed in June; building accessibility is about 50% completed; and the kitchen installation is now in the advanced planning



Additional support was provided by Proctor Academy, which supplied a backhoe and operator Jim Hanson for construction of a firm foundation; and by Belletetes, which donated \$1,000 of construction materials.

stage. A rough drawing of the kitchen’s proposed floor plan is now on display inside the Hub, for those interested in this element of the Hub’s future.

Potter from page 1

Thompson’s tavern in Andover and liked the area and the people. He purchased a 175-acre farm in 1814 and built a home that became a showplace. The neighborhood soon became known as ‘Potter’s Place.’”

As for how he earned his fame, Hodgson said, “We have to begin with his expertise.” Addressing about 100 people dodging the sun under a tent or grabbing patches of shade by the old Potter Place train depot, Hodgson emphasized, “He was expert in magic, in ventriloquism, in one-man theatrical entertainments; he really had no peer at that time. He was assiduous in his honing of his skills; he was extraordinarily good at all of them.”

He was also a Black man in

a country where slavery was legal, even in New Hampshire. The year of Potter’s death, 1835, is also noteworthy for the destruction by local racists of the interracial Noyes Academy in Canaan, just See Potter on page 6



John Hodgson meets Mason Frederick Summers, Past Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge (formerly the African Lodge) in Boston, the first black Masonic lodge in America. Richard Potter was a prominent member. Photo: Dan Comley, BHTNH

Andover Historical Society 2023 Calendar



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