

Schoolhouse renovation news

We are please to report we have just passed all the building and electrical inspections! While a number of small painting details have to wait for spring (it is 7 degrees as we write this) we have completed a good list of updates to our corner home.

It is what you do not see that counts.....

At our New Year's Lunch John Thouhey encouraged us to take care of the Schoolhouse as an important part of Solebury's heritage. There are no other 1755 Schoolhouses in our township, and hardly any in Bucks County, still working as a center for education and history. We know the following list of improvements go a long way to preserving this living history site.

*A new roof and gutters not only look great but have reversed the problem of water flooding into the basement each time it rains. Our basement, which also sports a new door and steps, is quite dry and we can use this space for needed storage area.

*A new, buried electric line brings our power up to 200 AMP, up from 100 AMP and gives us ample room to grow.

* The phone, computer and power lines have all been removed from overhead where they marred the buildings appearance in the front and on the Sugan Road side. Burying the wires allowed us to eliminate 6 lines of which only two were working (history we do not need!) In addition we removed air-conditioning pipes from the Sugan Road building wall which returns us to a simple, clean and more original facade.

* The windows, which paradoxically we did see, were a major issue. These have been renewed by preserving all the old frames, moulding and sashes. We fixed the sash cords & weights so the lower sash is no longer frozen by decades of paint. Sunlight, shining through 190 new panes of 1800's style glass, now brightens the Schoolhouse interior. The difference is impressive. Students would actually be able to see what they are reading, or in my case, improve the outside world view of a young daydreamer.

While a long list of future improvement tasks suggest themselves as we continue to devote renovation time to the site, we are very thankful to our contractors, suppliers and of course to all our members and supporters to enable us to pass these milestones.