

Star of Hope Update - Historic Preservation In Action

The Star of Hope building has held a distinguished position on Vinalhaven's Main Street since it was built as a meeting place for the local Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Originally a two-story structure with retail space on the street level and meeting space above, the Order added the 3rd floor in 1885 and continued to use the meeting space for decades. In 1930, the building was sold to photographer Eliot Elisofon who subsequently rented space to Robert Indiana. In 1977 Mr. Indiana bought the building and began restoring it. In 1982, the Star of Hope building was listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**. However, today it is listed on Maine Preservation's top 10 most endangered historic buildings.

In September 2019 the Star of Hope Foundation became owners of the Star of Hope building as well as Robert Indiana's three other properties located on Clam Shell Alley, Windy Way, and 10 Main Street. Currently the Foundation is conducting an analysis of each building and has hired a number of Maine-based architects, designers and contractors who are securing the buildings before winter. The Foundation thanks the team: OPAL, an architectural and design firm located in Belfast; Nancy Barba, an architect and historic preservation expert from Portland; and Rockport Building Partners, who are managing the repair and replacement of damaged siding, rotten sills, eaves and dormers, and who worked alongside Horch Roofing when they repaired the mansard roof.

The other properties:

Review and analysis of the other real estate holdings has found that 10 Main Street is in relatively good shape, probably because the interior was renovated not long ago. However the exterior does need some attention and a new roof is needed.



7 Windy Way has been stabilized for the winter, but is vulnerable as it sits within the flood plain. Therefore, while Vinalhaven grapples with the very real issue of sea-level rise, this house will be subject to any long-term requirements put in place for the downtown.

The Sail Loft on Clamshell Alley, with its barn-like features, has had temperature and security systems installed. While it is in fairly good shape, it will need some updates to the framing and overall structure.



Reminder: the next Community Meeting is on Nov 19th from 5-7 p.m. at The Union Church. Please let us know if you have any questions. Email us at starofhope@starofhopefoundation.org or visit our website to sign up for regular updates: www.starofhopefoundation.org