



***Wright Tavern Futures Task Force  
Concord, Massachusetts***

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January 14, 2021

Tom Kearns, Chair Community Preservation Committee, Concord, MA  
Members of the Community Preservation Committee  
Elizabeth Hughes, Concord Town Planner  
Heather Carey, Administrative Assistant

Sent to: [hlamplough@concordma.gov](mailto:hlamplough@concordma.gov); [tkearns@dskap.com](mailto:tkearns@dskap.com) and [hcarey@concordma.gov](mailto:hcarey@concordma.gov)

Dear Mr. Kearns and Members of the CPC:

We are writing to inform you that on January 12, 2021 a meeting was held at the Wright Tavern including architects Larry Sorli, Steven Mallory, Holly Cratsley, structural engineer Brian Walsh and First Parish Trustee Roselyn Romberg. Structural issues in the Attic of the building were thoroughly discussed, and options for repairs/stabilization were discussed. The Second Floor of the building was also examined to determine where the loads were coming down, where there was separation of the walls, and to determine the best places to open the walls to design solutions for reinforcing the structure.

Larry, Steven and Brian are all willing to work together on this, and all of them bring different areas of expertise to the project. They are all aware of the Department of the Interior's guidelines for work in such a historic building. With that in mind, they located 3 spots on the Second Floor where a small amount of plaster on the ceiling and walls could be removed in order to examine the structure beneath. All 3 location have new plaster, and new sheathing over the summer beams. No historic materials will need to be removed in the areas that were identified for exploration.

The steps that they are proposing include:

1. Preparing plans of the structure of the Tavern to document their findings.
2. Opening the wall and ceiling in three locations to observe the structure in those areas.
3. Determining the best way to reinforce the structure. Depending on where there is the greatest movement (separation of structural elements) in the original structure, they will be able to determine how to stabilize those locations to prevent further separation from occurring.

4. Prepare plans and specifications for the structural repairs.
5. Larry and Steven will suggest contractors who are familiar with this kind of structure to bid on the project.
6. Have the work performed. Larry Sorli (who worked for the National Park Service for 10 years) has volunteered his services to help oversee the work on the Second and Third Floors of the Tavern, along with Brian.

All three consultants feel that there are options that will not require extensive removal of original materials. They do need to determine the extent of the movement and locate where the loads from the roof structure is not being adequately supported. There are some very long spans in the building, and the wood has of course dried over time. The roof structure is baring down through the Attic onto beams in the ceiling of the Second Floor. This is causing problems in the ceiling and at the walls of the Second Floor. Over 50% of the ceilings on the Second Floor are new blueboard and plaster, unlike the Attic which still has much of its original horse-hair plaster.

We remain committed to this project. We feel that this work to solve and then correct the issue of how the roof load is being transferred and supported through the structure, along with the planned repairs in the Basement, will stabilize the building for, hopefully, another century. That is the goal that the Trustees have set for this project. We hope that you will consider our request favorably so that we can move forward with this work.

Sincerely yours,

Tom Wilson  
Chair, Wright Tavern Futures Task Force

Roselyn Romberg  
Trustee, Trustees for First Parish Donations

Holly Cratsley  
Architectural Consultant