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## January Update on the Friends of Neill Log House (FONLH): FONLH on Target for Reconstruction Goal

January 2023

*Tony Indovina, SHHS Board Member and FONLH President*

### Mission Statement for the Friends of the Neill Log House (FONLH Inc.)

*Adopted February 2022*



***"We secure funds to restore and maintain the Neill Log House, foster knowledge of its historic significance, and work with interested parties to ensure the continued educational use of the structure and its site for future generations."***

*Individual support for the FONLH restoration effort will always be needed. To make online donations by credit card or PayPal, go to the SHUC website, shuc.org, and click on the "Projects" link in the black menu bar at the top of the page. A pull-down menu will appear. Select "Friends of the Neill Log House." Alternatively, checks can be sent to SHUC (put FONLH in the memo line) at the following address: SHUC, 5604 Solway Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15217.*



The old year could not have ended better for FONLH than to receive a late December notice of an award of \$75,000 from our grant application to the Allegheny Foundation for construction costs. This grant assures that it is absolutely realistic for us to attain our goal to begin work on the Neill Log House during the 2023 season. Coupled with all the small and large private and public grants and gifts we have banked since our incorporation in October 2021, we have a balance in line with the reconstruction costs calculated by our very capable Building and Design Committee of professionals. Under the leadership of our Funding Chair, Mardi Isler, FONLH vice-president and President of SHUC, continued fundraising efforts are now more necessary than ever to assure that 1) we have sufficient funds for any contingencies and unanticipated expenses of reconstruction, 2) that we can also predict sufficient operating expenses for running our organization (this will include costs incumbent on us as custodians of the log house under a license agreement with the City), and finally, 3) that we can assure a steady stream of funding to carry us into the Usage phase of opening and keeping the structure open to the public after reconstruction and site planning is finalized.

The hard work that must occur before reconstruction, along with continued fundraising, is to finalize a license agreement with the City within the scope of a small organization like ours. Our Executive Committee is now attempting to work on that with City officials. One of the most significant elements of such an agreement is a site plan that addresses both the need for accessibility and compatibility with an existing lease on the site surrounding the Neill Log House. First Tee of Pittsburgh is the leaseholder of the Schenley Park Golf Course, where the log house has been on its original location since before the golf course or park existed.

This month's regular board meeting for FONLH is marked by an historic event—the first in-person meeting to be conducted since our formation (to date, we have conducted meetings only on Zoom). Through the hospitality of the President and CEO of First Tee – Pittsburgh, Eric Amato, we will hold our January meeting at its Arnold Palmer Clubhouse. The timing is very appropriate for the oldest and newest assets in Schenley Park to have the opportunity to discuss their individual needs for the future of the Neill Log House site and to hopefully assure that the goals and needs of both organizations can be reached.

### Neill Log House Page on the SHHS Website Will Now Include Links to FONLH Updates

Look for an enhancement happening soon to the **Neill Log House link** on the main menu of the SHHS website. There will be an option on the front page of the link to view detailed descriptions of all the past years' FONLH Updates in the SHHS Newsletters. This is being done because at present, only SHHS members can access our archived newsletter articles, but this new tool will allow anyone to review the entire chronology of updates we've published. And members who haven't had a chance to stay informed about the various aspects of the Neill Log House project will be able to browse through the various areas of our work by means of these more detailed descriptions.

**Below is a listing of the updates published so far in the SHHS Newsletters, from most recent to oldest:**

**December 2022:** Caring for the Contents of the Neill Log House—Moving Toward a Usage Plan

**November 2022:** Koerner House Events Retrospective—First Major Fundraiser for NLH

**October 2022:** Archiving the History of the NLH on Google Doc of FONLH; Introducing First Intern of FONLH

**September 2022:** Sample of Funding Flyer Highlighting the Purpose and Goals of FONLH