

Friends of the Job Lane House, Inc.

Co-Presidents Message

Happy New Year! We are thankful for our membership and look forward to the winter to plan our tour themes for next year. Job Lane Farm Museum was a busy place for hundreds of years, so 2026 is our year to bring to life what it was like to live in Bedford through the years. We would love for you to visit!

Yours, Julia and Carol

2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Officers

Carol Hand and Julia Whiteneck, Co-Presidents
Betsey Anderson, Treasurer
Dorothy Africa, Secretary

Roy Kring, Operations Director
John Linz, HPC Representative

Directors

Dorothy Africa 2026
Carol Hand 2026
Kate Reynolds 2026
Ralph Hammond 2027
Kimberly Sweet 2027
Julia Whiteneck 2028
Sharon McDonald 2028



OPERATIONS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Our 2025 Job Lane House Tour season ended on the fourth Sunday in October with one of our largest number of visitors of the entire year. Overall, I think we did great for our little museum. Our visitors enjoyed hearing about the interesting history of the Job Lane house and its inhabitants over the past 300+ years. There was also much appreciation for the information provided by our tour guides. I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated House Tour Team who included the Job Lane house in their Sunday activities throughout the entire summer. We also will miss our Student Museum Docents, Dhara, Anoushka, and Andrew, who did a great job and received many positive comments. Thanks to the Bedford Cultural Council for providing a grant to support the Student Museum Docent program.

Looking ahead to 2026, our FRIENDS OF JOB LANE HOUSE ANNUAL MEETING will take place on Sunday, March 29th, at Old Town Hall from 2 to 4 pm. Please plan on attending to support our organization. We will have a business meeting, a speaker, and refreshments. Bring family and friends for a pleasant, informative gathering. The 2026 ACTIVITY CALENDAR is included in this Broadside.

Another new item for 2026 is the installation of WiFi in the Job Lane House. This will enable our very capable webmaster to install QR code activated audio to our visitors' cellphones to listen to wonderful recordings by Bedford's Town Historian Sharon McDonald. This will provide an option for those visitors who like to take their time and do a self-guided tour.

FRIENDS OF JOB LANE HOUSE

ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026, 2PM-4PM

OLD TOWN HALL

2 SOUTH ROAD, BEDFORD

BUSINESS MEETING, SPEAKER, REFRESHMENTS

JOB LANE FARM MUSEUM 2026 ACTIVITIES

Sunday Open Hours 2 – 4 pm	2026 Events
Sunday, March 29, 2 – 4 pm	Annual Meeting, Old Town Hall
Saturday, April 25, 9 am	Yard Clean-up Day
Saturday, May 2, 9 am	House/Barn Clean-up Day
May 10	House Tours
May 24	House Tours
Thursday, June 11 (TBD)	Job Lane School 3 rd Grade Tours
June 14	House Tours
June 28	House Tours
July 12	House Tours
July 26	House Tours / Children's Activities
August 9	House Tours
August 23	House Tours
September 13	House Tours
September 19	Bedford Day – Town Hall Area
September 27	House Tours
October 11	House Tours
October 25	Last House Tour of the Season
October 31	Closing the House for Winter
March 2027	Annual Meeting

AN ANTIQUE CHILD'S TEA SET

Jane Dutton is the daughter of Frances Dutton and Hazel (Gilpin) Dutton. Now at 97, she was moving from Winchester to Waltham.



She wanted me to have her Childs Tea Set. Jane said she doesn't know how she got the set. It was made in Japan sometime from 1921 to 1941.

Jane has had it forever. She may have had it as a child. Jane has not married so she is happy it is at our home in Bedford. Warren H. Dutton who married Lillian French was her fathers' uncle. Jane, we will take care of it forever. Thank you for giving it to us on June 25, 2025. Mary Hafer was pleased that I wrote to her and included a picture of the tea set. She said, "I am going to be 101 in September, and I am still breathing." She also told me that the Great Hall table would be the best place to display it. Note: Mary passed away shortly after. I may have the last card Mary wrote, so I will save it forever.

~ Jeannette Pothier

THE HOUSE FOR WINTER

Every Fall since we opened the house for tours, we have taken care of it for the winter. At first, with no heat, the walls of the kitchen had a coating of ice, so that was fixed. Heat was required during the winter to keep our walls and structure in good shape. The panel has electric switches and the heat separated. In the Fall we turn on the heat for each section of the house.

One spring I noticed that the very light curtains in the Parlor had been too long as they covered the electric strips and had turned very brown with a slight burn area showing. I have made all the curtains in the house, by hand, and lined them. The exception is the Parlor Chamber where the Rotary Club of Bedford are the ones who fixed that room before the house opened and later paid for curtains. The Canopy bed is there, and the blue toile canopy can easily fade if too much sun comes in, I am lining those curtains. There are 3 windows, two panels each, and each panel is 45 inches wide. This will give more protection for that room.



Thanks to our dear friend Marion Bryan who made that canopy fit so well. We took down the canopy, and working together with, Carol Hand, Dorothy Africa, Julia Whitneck and myself it is ready for next spring. It is heavy material, and we feel it is best to take it down for the winter.

We also installed Rodent repellent plugs that give a high frequency ultrasound that will repel mice. We don't want these creatures to have access to our house and sheds. They are to find other places to live in.

We pull out of the Kitchen shed, the linens, clothing, and the blanket out of the Boring room. The house has some quirks that have come with age. The Boring room floor is separating from the wall, perfect highway for mice to get in. All the doors are closed, and we will make a visit or two to check on the mice activity providing we can get in without too much snow. The Town has shut off the water.

~ Jeannette Pothier



Friends of the Job Lane House

P O Box 720/295 North Road

Bedford, MA 01730

October 2025

Dear Friends of the Job Lane House,

This year has been a busy year for the Job Lane Farm Museum. As an all-volunteer non-profit organization, we are tasked by the Town of Bedford with presenting the Job Lane House to the public. The dedicated group of volunteer house tour guides has been able to cover every scheduled Sunday, supplemented by our Student Museum Docent program for interested Bedford High School students, supported by the Bedford Cultural Council. We receive many positive comments from our visitors. We also had a children's games day, a presentation about use of wood in colonial times, and visits by Lane descendants.

Your gift to this Fall Fundraiser for the Job Lane Farm Museum will help the Friends to continue to maintain the Museum facility and provide resources to have more family activities during the 2026 season.

To contribute a gift of any size to the Job Lane Farm Museum's Annual Fund, you may **give online** or make your check payable to "Friends of the Job Lane House, Inc." and mail to PO Box 720, Bedford, MA 01730. The Job Lane Farm Museum is a private, non-profit 501c (3) charitable organization. All donations to the Museum are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The Friends of the Job Lane House Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon, March 29, 2026 at Old Town Hall in Bedford. Please consider being a volunteer tour guide. Rent the barn for your event. Visit the website for more information:

<https://joblanefarmmuseum.org>

Thank you!

Please send this part with your donation:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Make your check payable to: Friends of the Job Lane House, Inc.

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P.O. Box 720
Bedford, MA 01730