A new direction for the Old Stone House

Despite a pandemic, this past year saw the construction of a new, one-mile Twilight Educational Trail, the completion of pandemic-safe educational and holiday programs, the installation of a new state roadside marker recognizing Mr. Twilight, the addition of a Wi-Fi hot spot in the museum, and the delivery of nutritious foods to local food banks from the museum’s giving gardens.

Veysey added that 2021 promises to be a big year. The museum will begin work to interpret trails at Willoughby State Forest’s Civilian Conservation Corps camp S-55, install a new Alexander Twilight exhibit, expand its Giving Gardens, add new educational and adult programs, and much more.

To better connect with the Northeast Kingdom community beyond, work on the museum’s brand began in fall 2020 in partnership with Flek, Inc., of St. Johnsbury. This work was made possible due to funding from the Northern Community Investment Corporation.

“The momentum leading to our brand’s launch has brought new partnerships and ideas to one of our region’s most important historical places,” said Carmen Jackson, Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village Board of Trustees President. “We’re not just looking to spark our own community but to create new opportunities for people in our local region and beyond.

“We believe this starts with an emphasis on Mr. Twilight and Brownstoning being the home of his place,” Ms. Jackson continued. “It makes clear the historical and physical manifestation of the man. We’re excited to where it leads us in partnership with those who are touched by our work.”

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village was established by the Orleans County Historical Society and has been operating as a museum since 1926. Through educational programs that use select items from its permanent collection as teaching tools, the museum embraces hands-on, experiential learning as a way of connecting individuals to their own communities.

Notable past activities have included a barn raising with area vocational students and a tree trimming and replanting project that was incorporated into the third grade science curriculum at the Brownington Elementary School. Adult education programs have taught such traditional crafts as blacksmithing, rug hooking, stone wall building, and tree pruning.

Spring and fall field days for area schools, as well as the “Time Travelers Day Camp” held in the summer, have emphasized hands-on craft activities, theater, and the scientific exploration of the garden and grounds.

The new brand launched this week aims to attract visitors from throughout the region while also engaging new members of the local community.

“Now, more than ever, we intend to serve as a community resource,” Ms. Veysey said. “We believe our institution can provide essential services and spark dialogue on inequality in our shared society.” — from the Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village.