

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hancock Shaker Village Appoints Interim Director

Pittsfield, Mass.—Hancock Shaker Village Board of Trustees Chair Mary Rentz announced today that Peter Hansen has been appointed interim director of the living history museum. “Peter Hansen has a deep understanding of the Shaker tradition and its relevance in modern times,” Rentz said. “This understanding, combined with his management and teaching experiences, makes him uniquely suited to keep the Village’s many initiatives moving forward during this time of transition.”

Peter Hansen is a retired bio-physicist, professor, and entrepreneur. He has developed new companies in biotech and medical diagnostics and managed large diagnostic and pharmaceutical commercial research teams at Johnson and Johnson. He taught at the Graduate School of Engineering at Northeastern University and the Graduate Program in Health Sciences and Technology at MIT. A dedicated supporter of Hancock Shaker Village, he chaired the Ad-Hoc Committee for a New Interpretive Plan, served as a member of the Education Committee, and has volunteered on the farm.

Hansen will begin on March 7, working with outgoing Hancock Shaker Village President and CEO Ellen Spear until she departs on March 26 to become executive director of Heritage Museums and Gardens. He will then assume the role of interim director while the trustees conduct a national search for a permanent new director.

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