

# News Release:

## Captain Linnell House, Orleans Historical Society

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### **CAPTAIN LINNELL HOUSE OWNERS EXPLORING FUTURE SALE TO ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Shelly and Bill Conway, owners of the Captain Linnell House (CLH) since 1988, have begun exploratory talks to possibly sell the 1840s home on Skaket Beach Road to the Orleans Historical Society (OHS). Any transaction would be 3-5 years in the future and, until then, the Conways intend to maintain full operation of their restaurant. They will honor – and continue to book – special event reservations.

“We feel this place is bigger than the people who own it,” Mr. Conway said. “We have spent three decades carefully restoring and preserving this house -- especially the interior -- to reflect the period architecture and maritime tradition of its builder, Ebenezer Linnell, a famous clipper ship captain born and raised in Orleans. We know the Historical Society would be good caretakers of this property. OHS would make it available for all Town residents and visitors to enjoy for generations to come. In addition, the large function room and licensed kitchens could offer ongoing revenue streams for the Society.”

“OHS has been running short of space for years, making it very difficult to sustain our mission of preserving Orleans history and culture for the public,” said Board Chair Mark Carron. “We are working to improve our existing 1834 Meeting House and Hurd Chapel on River Road, and were looking at other ways to expand. The possibility of owning the renowned Captain Linnell House to properly preserve and display artifacts, and have more accessible archive, research, administrative and event space to complement our existing buildings, is an incredible opportunity that we want to fully explore.”

Both the Conways and OHS are excited about the prospects of these talks. With this future sale, the historical significance of the Captain Linnell House, OHS Meeting House and Hurd Chapel would be preserved for Orleans residents and visitors, OHS would gain the space it needs to fulfill its mission far into the future, and the Linnell House and Meeting House could continue to be highly desirable locations for special OHS, community and private functions.

More information will be announced as it becomes available.

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