

NEW HAMPSHIRE BOAT MUSEUM



Jaime Laurent, Bill Irwin from Irwin Marine and Martha Cummings. Martha and Greg Hopkins from Eastern Boats.

NHBM looks back, forward at recent event

Wolfeboro, NH—October 25, 2019—Recently, New Hampshire Boat Museum (NHBM) hosted Marina Night, a reception to not only review a successful 2019 season, but look ahead.

“We are quietly building momentum in our Capital Campaign to build a new facility,” said NHBM Executive Director Martha Cummings, who noted the evening helped to highlight two recent pledges.

Eastern Boats and Irwin Marine have pledged \$25,000 and \$20,000 respectively to support NHBM’s Capital Campaign.

“The museum’s focus today may be on older wooden boats, but the time will come when we will fit into the picture,” said Eastern Boat’s current owner Bob Bordeau. “A New Hampshire boat builder supporting a New Hampshire boat museum seems like the perfect fit to me.”

Greg Hopkins, who will take over Eastern Boats in 2020, agreed and said preserving the state’s boating history and developing related educational and experiential programs is important.

“The museum helps set the path for our children and their children to enjoy the waters of New Hampshire by boat,” he said. “The museum is founded on fun family values and helps

to create many great memories that can be passed off to future generations.”

In speaking about the contribution by Bill Irwin, Jaime Laurent, who serves on the Capital Campaign committee, said Irwin Marine is “a legacy not only in our state, but throughout New England and the nation.”

“They have been named #12 among the top 100 boat dealers in North America by Boating Industry Magazine, but their success still rests on their appreciation of the past,” she said. “In moving forward, we must also look back.”

In looking back at 2019, Cummings cited a strong year that began with NHBM paying off the mortgage on 4-acres of waterfront property and effecting successful repairs to its current structure.

“When our new facility is built, the current museum will be transformed into a boat building and restoration workshop center,” said Cummings, who noted NHBM will continue forging strategic partnerships within the marina community.

“It’s important we demonstrate to others that we are more than a museum and bigger than just boats,” she said. “We are educators and an emerging economic force in the region...If we can sustain ourselves, we help sustain the local economy.”

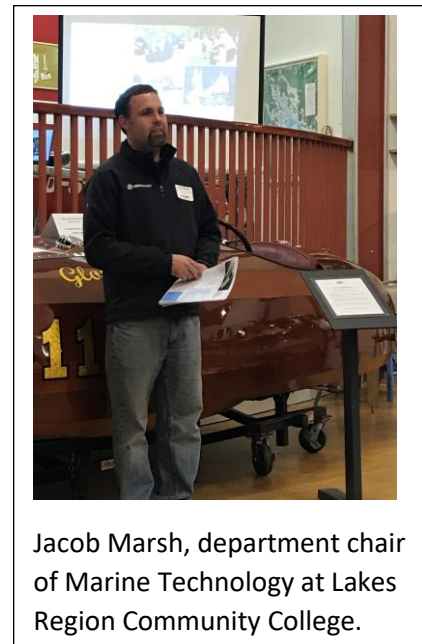
Laurent agreed and said she envisions possible partnerships with educational institutions. She cited, Jacob Marsh, department chair of Marine Technology at Lakes Region Community College who spoke at the event as anecdotal proof.

“At the event, he shared the exciting certification and associate degree programs leading to employment in the robust marine trades in our region and state,” she said. “Jake values the college's partnership with the museum and understands the future for potential growth.”

This growth, explained Cummings, will be significantly enhanced by a new facility.

“We will be able to develop diverse programs that will expand beyond our current offerings that include boat building for youth and families, boat restoration, sailing classes and wooden power boat cruises,” she said. “The future of NHBM has never looked brighter thanks to continued support from businesses and individuals alike.”

Founded in 1992 by antique and classic boating enthusiasts, NHBM is committed to inspire people of all ages with an understanding of, and appreciation for, the boating heritage of New Hampshire’s fresh waterways.



Jacob Marsh, department chair of Marine Technology at Lakes Region Community College.

To learn more about NHBM, visit nhbm.org.