

Statement from the B&M 3713 Restoration Committee

To all our Project 3713 supporters,

The Project 3713 Partnership between the NPS and this Chapter has come to an end. The NPS has determined to take a different approach to the restoration of “The Constitution” or “America’s Locomotive”™ at the SNHS, Scranton, PA

Our Chapter has been an ardent supporter of Steamtown from its inception and even more involved when the restoration of 3713 began in 1995, as a way to ensure mainline steam would be available. As you know over the past 28 years, the restoration has encountered a number of challenges, not the least of which were changes in priority by our partners at Steamtown.

Early on, support was strong from both the Park and the donors before priorities changes. The period from 2013 to 2019 saw a phenomenal revitalization. Over \$750,000 dollars was raised from all of those very kind and dedicated donors. Those donations along with funding secured by Steamtown witnessed a rebuild of the drivers, air pumps, feed water pump, boiler repair, a new firebox, cab and cistern for the tender. Shop forces at Steamtown plus a cadre of volunteers were devoted to the project when it was mothballed which also saw the formal partnership expire which ultimately was not renewed by NPS and not by the concerted efforts of Chapter Officers and Committee members who conducted several meetings with an earnest effort to have a partnership agreement renewed.

The next step in the restoration process lies solely in the hand of NPS and Steamtown Officials. The funds which were entrusted to the Chapter have securely been turned over to NPS, with an understanding that those funds as expended on 3713 will be reported to the Chapter, but in no means will the Chapter have any authority how the funds are spent. This Chapter is confident that those funds will be handled in a responsible manner, exactly like they were kept in trust with the Chapter. For the past 28 years, this Chapter did account for every penny raised, every penny spent and the dollar amount turned over to NPS.

As information, if not already aware, the website for the project has been taken down. Future donations should be directed to Steamtown, if you choose. Conversely, any questions regarding status, progress and disposition of 3713 should also be directed to Steamtown. This Chapter is now free of any responsibility for 3713, we are convinced the return of mainline steam is absolutely essential for the success of Steamtown. Of course we are eager to see 3713 roll up to our Station at Moscow in the future. In the interim, this Chapter stands ready to accept any and all trains that depart Steamtown for the Poconos. That beautiful Station has now received a complete restoration in itself and we are so very proud of that, thanks in part to the NEPRA and numerous grants received.

With a profound respect for the B&M 3713 and of course all of the donors, we are honored to have led the project since 1995. Thank you one and all.

L&WV RHS Chapter & Restoration Committee members these past years

Ken Kertesz, Chairman-Restoration Committee