

**For Immediate Release:**  
7/11/2017

**Contact:** Priya Kapoor  
**Phone:** 631-265-6768

***The Smithtown Historical Society received grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, Inc. for restoring the historic Epenetus Smith Tavern front porch***

The Smithtown Historical Society is delighted to have received a \$10,950.00 grant from The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. The grant was endowed by the Gardiner Foundation for the purpose of restoring the historic Epenetus Smith Tavern front porch.

The Tavern was built before the Revolutionary War and originally stood just west of the juncture of Middle Country & North Country Roads. This site was a popular stop on the Brooklyn to Sag Harbor stagecoach route during the 1770s and during the Revolutionary War, the house often played host to British soldiers. Moved twice in 1911 & 1921, it found its current location in 1972, one half mile from its original location. Epenetus Smith Tavern is used for school programs and educational events. Annually, over 3000 students visit this house and learn about our history and heritage.

Executive Director Marianne Howard said, “Thank you to the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, for this grant award. Without it, we would not be able to restore the Revolutionary War era tavern. To add the front porch will allow our visitors to gain a better understanding of the architecture of the building and will continue to allow us to enhance the grounds. Thank you to Mancini Architecture for providing the designs for the porch, the Village of the Branch for its support of historic preservation, and to School House Remodeling, who will be completing the work.”

Matt Fleece, owner, School House Remodeling Co. said, “We are very excited to partner with the Smithtown Historical Society on this project. It is such an asset to be able to bring the historic Tavern back to its original design. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Society on these and many other improvements to the historical buildings on the grounds.”

“The Smithtown Historical Society is a vital part of their community. They are engaging the public in new and innovated ways to bring Long Island history to life,” said Kathryn M. Curran, Executive Director of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation.

The Smithtown Historical Society works to preserve the historic properties in our town and we seek to expand and improve upon programs for both adults and children while sharing Smithtown’s rich history. All these activities require funding, and we have been fortunate enough to have the support of our wonderful friends and neighbors in Smithtown. Our community, which plays a vital role in supporting our cause and through the years, has helped build our Society.