Work is progressing on the 722-724 Main Street property, as can be seen in the picture. Big Foot Restoration has completed old paint removal and repointing on the front façade and are in the process of doing the same on the alley side. Major brick repair, done when Wheeling Heritage owned the building, can be seen behind the dividing downspout. Rust Belt Restoration has removed rotten brackets, along with windows on the 724 Main (south) half. One of the old brackets can be seen on the workbench of their workshop. This company will paint the façade after the new mortar has cured – probably in the spring. Note, both Big Foot and Rust Belt are small businesses started by graduates of the Building Preservation Program at Belmont College.

The Victorian Old Town Association (VOTA) received a matching grant from the City of Wheeling to remove old, problem trees along part of Main Street. We were able to participate in this grant, resulting in the removal of the tree that once stood in front of 722 Main. Along with VOTA members, we have ordered a replacement tree – an Ivory Silk Lilac – that was recommended by the WVU Extension Office and Nicky’s Garden Center. That tree will be planted this fall.

We received a $40,000 Development Grant from the WV Historic Preservation Office. **We’ll need to match the grant amount.** These funds will be used for internal structural work on the first and second level floors and dividing wall, along with future plumbing access. More details on that work will be in the next update.