

Weekly Property Coordinator Update  
August 24, 2013

This is a 3 week update!

### **Vacation Coverage**

Tristan Pierce did a great job taking care of the Community House while I was on vacation, and Kevin Lee took good care of Meeting's phone. I'm grateful to both of them! It's good to know we can make this work.

### **Parsonage Sale**

The closing is set for Weds. Aug. 28. The buyer has decided to forgo getting the official Planning Board approval for her plans before purchasing the house --- apparently the preliminary reactions have been good enough for her to trust it will happen. Along with the signed deed, there will be a cross-easement agreement between the Grange and Meeting that the buyer has agreed to as well. I will call the utility company on Monday to notify them of the sale. Dorothy Tongue, our lawyer, and Ellie Wicks, our realtor, continue to work diligently on this – they both seem confident it really will happen this coming week!

### **The Well**

The water will be retested on Tuesday (8/27) for Coliform. If the test result comes back showing it's cleared up, I will notify the Health Board. We should seed the area around the well site in the coming weeks for shade grass.

### **Property Rentals and Use**

I met with the current president of the Westport River Garden Club to get dates on the calendar for the coming two years. As it turns out, they had such a positive experience with the shifted date of their plant sale to Memorial Day weekend, that they now want it to be their traditional sale date. Nice when that happens. ☺

There is a meditation class meeting on Monday evenings, just for the month of August. All 3 youth programs in NEYM have scheduled retreats at Westport for the coming year. I have had several other one time rental inquiries recently, but none of them have worked. A couple of times it was because the inquirers wanted more time/flexibility than what we could offer in the Community House on Sundays in between our use in the morning and AA's in the evening.

### **Property Repairs/Concerns**

I temporarily repaired the fire door from the main room in the Community House onto the back deck so that it closes and locks again. I think I'll be able to do a more long-term fix this week (needed longer screws and my drill).

There is a clan of hornets determined to set up home in the tool shed. I've sprayed small nests, and then removed them, several times, but they just keep building them in another place. The last one was in the wooden ladder. Friends are encouraged to be cautious when taking things in and out of the shed for right now, while we – the hornets and I-- come to some sort of an understanding!

Both refrigerators could use a good scrub. Is this something for the fall clean up list or for me, hospitality committee, or the cleaning service to take on? Neither of the units has a lot of food in them – they just need washed down, etc.

**Yard Work**

Tristan and I worked with enthusiasm in the Peace Garden together on Monday afternoon. Friends will either be pleased or distressed with our work – we cleared out a lot of weeds and volunteer trees and shrubs. (We think it looks lots better.) Thanks to Kevin Lee who's been lending us his utility trailer for hauling loads to the landfill. I plan on getting a load of composted manure in the next few weeks to spread on the garden. Next on the To Do list is trimming dead branches from some of the trees and getting the picnic table painted. I would also be interested in Meeting considering purchasing a few shrubs to fill in the back sides of the garden.

**Mail Box**

I know of at least 2 checks and several other correspondences that were mailed to our street address and returned to the sender instead of put in our post office box. I spoke with the post office this week, and the clerk said it is acceptable to have both a street mail box and a post office box. Given the number of times this has been an issue, I am asking Meeting to consider approving putting a street mail box back up for us, particularly with the sale of the parsonage. We can continue to try to encourage everyone to use the P.O. Box address, but a mail box would ensure we are receiving our mail and decrease frustration on the end of those who can't get their mail received by us.

Gretchen Baker-Smith