

Property Coordinator Update
October 16, 2013

The Wall

The *Fall of the Wall* happened on Thurs. October 10, when one Mary Derbyshire's exercise class attendees mistakenly backed up too far and actually started to go over the wall in his car. Thankfully both he and the car are fine – obviously, the wall is not. However, we are very fortunate; not a one of the 3 long granite top pieces broke when they hit the ground!

Dave Farias, Jr., a local stonewall builder and guardian angel of our Meeting's property, noticed it on his way home from work that evening. He called me immediately from his truck, and then waited for me to dash over to see it myself. Dave worked with Paul Issacs on moving the wall back in 1999 when the Potter House came down the street from Lee's Market and clearly has a connection to our wall – actually, I think it's to all stone everywhere. I think he is sort of the stone-wall-whisperer! He has submitted a quote for the repair, which the clerk of Finance and all of Property Committee think is very reasonable. We believe that this is also a repair that needs to happen ASAP, and so have gone ahead and asked him to schedule the work for us rather than waiting to get approval from MMfB. We hope to have this done in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, Dave helped me mark off the area, as it is right next to Main Road. I reported it to the Police Department, assuring them we were working on repairing it.

The Well

The latest water test came back normal and potable (drinkable)! I took a copy down to Ray Belanger at the Westport Health Department.

I asked Dave Farias if he might have a large rock that could be installed in front of the well cap to prevent the snow plow from accidentally taking off the top of the cap. He thinks he does and will work with me on this.

Property Rentals and Use

This week is a bumper week of activity: 5 Exercise classes, the Brownie troop, the Women's Club, a local business association meeting, 2 birthday parties, and an AA Meeting. I've scheduled in some additional cleaning hours with our cleaning service since I will be away on vacation this week as well.

Ana, the woman from Mary Ann's Cleaning Service, who cleans our buildings, is now storing her CD player on the counter in the back kitchen. We are very welcome to use it at any time.

I am working on inquiries for a one day women's creativity workshop (November) and another birthday party (Jan.), and emailing regularly with the bride of the January wedding.

Property Insurance

As Finance will report, we have changed insurance carriers. The inspector spent 1.5 hours with me on site 2 weeks ago, taking dozens of photos and interviewing me about practices and procedures (everything from the storage of money to FDS teacher's background checks). He said our physical property is in great shape and that he didn't see any concerns the underwriter was likely to have.

Occupancy Permits and Town Inspections

I have had a couple of inquiries recently regarding the legal occupancy limits for the buildings. I could not locate the occupancy certificates, so went down to the Town Hall to get replacements. They had no record (i.e., not a file folder) of 938 Main Road (the Meeting House address, and our legal address) on file nor any record of any previous certificate of occupancy for either building in recent years. They gave me an application for certificate of inspection, which I will complete, and we'll schedule inspections of both buildings in the next couple of weeks. Apparently these inspections are supposed to be done annually.

Lock on Utility Shed

Primarily for the sake of child safety, I have put a small combination lock on the door of the utility shed. Please ask Kevin Lee or me for the combination, and we'll happily share it with you!

Thermostats

All 3 of the thermostats have had fresh batteries installed and all are now running on programs according to the scheduled use of the buildings. If you need to adjust the temperature, please use the up and down arrows to do so. Please let me know if there are problems with the program so that I can fix it pronto.

Fall Cleanup Day

Our fall cleanup day is scheduled for Sunday, November 3, 2013 after worship. I will make sure there is soup, and we can order pizza if there is interest. Friends are invited to bring any additional food. A chainsaw would be very useful that day – please let me know if you have one. Property Committee will have a list of jobs and include ones for our younger members and attenders – we hope many Friends will be able to lend us a hand for a couple of hours!

Cemetery Repairs

I have neglected this project completely thus far. I will get on it, I promise, when I return from vacation. My apologies for dropping the ball on this one.

Damaged Bench in the Meeting House

The local carpenter contractor I contacted about fixing the cracked support piece on one of the long benches in the Meeting House (the one which the balcony support beam cuts into), has not appeared yet. I will pursue other solutions.

Squeaking Door in the Meeting House

The loud squeal of the side door has subsided with the cooler fall temperatures. However, thanks to Kevin, I have learned that rubbing candle wax on the threshold (particularly the 6 or 8 inches closest to the hinged side) continues to be helpful. The candle is stored on the top of the mail slots behind this door in the foyer. Friends are invited to apply more wax as warranted! ☺

Next Property Committee Meeting

Our scheduled meeting for 10/10 had to be cancelled at the last hour due to a crisis I was handling in one of the retreat programs. We'll hopefully be able to gather on 10/24 at 7pm.

Vacation Coverage

Buddy and I are going on a much anticipated week's vacation. Kevin will cover Meeting's phone and check in on the property. Deana has also graciously assured me that she will as well. I am so grateful! ♥

Gretchen Baker-Smith