

## Property Coordinator Update May 30, 2015

It's been a relatively quiet month.

### **Window Replacement and Outside Painting of the Community House**

Replacing all of the windows in the Potter House, and then painting the outside trim of the Community House are next on the capital work plan. Property Committee will be bringing a proposal to a called Business Meeting on May 31, 2015. A named Friend from Property Committee, rather than me, will be the "clerk of the works" of this project, due to the extensive nature of the project.

### **Use of the Buildings by Others**

The Westport River Garden Club just had a very successful sale last weekend at the Community House. They use the grounds for 2 consecutive days over Memorial Day weekend for this amazing sale, and they are mostly wonderfully self-sufficient (we're working on some minor clarity around recycling and clean up responsibilities). Young Friends held a retreat here a couple of weeks ago, and the JHYM 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat is next weekend. Youth Programs' retreats do require more time from me before and after – but it is a good bit of ministry! We've had a couple of inquiries, were the rain location for a non-profit's gathering, and hosted one birthday party.

I have had long phone calls, an in-person meeting, and exchanged a number of emails with someone interested in hosting a regular music series at the Community House. Property Committee will be considering this proposal at its next meeting.

### **Fire Extinguishers**

Southeastern Fire Equipment (and I) will be onsite on Monday, June 1 to test all of the extinguishers.

### **Gravestone Repair**

Kevin met with Jeff King who will be doing some gravestone repair work in the coming months on stones on the property.

### **Historical Information Inquiries**

From time to time, including this past month, I receive phone calls from someone looking for information on a particular bit of Quaker history or an individual person doing a genealogical search. I answer things as best I can and use NEYM's office manager's assistance as necessary. It would be very useful for us to have a one or two page summary of our Meeting's history – both for me to hone my knowledge as well as to hand out to those who inquire. I'm not sure who to ask for this – I'm hoping someone reading this report will have been sparked to tell me (or do it). ☺

### **M&C Resources**

One day last week I popped by Meeting just as a Friend from Allen's Neck Meeting was coming out of the Meeting House. She was beaming. She had 2 of the yellow information "book markers" from the Meeting House that M&C recently began providing as part of the Quaker Outreach Pilot Project. She said she was taking them to the Allen's Neck M&C Meeting that very evening because she had been at worship with us recently, seen them, and loved them. She hoped her Meeting would approve providing them to visitors, too. She also mentioned that she loved that our Meeting House was open so that she could go in and get them – and expressed her sorrow that her Meeting is locked most of the time. As so often happens, this was a wonderful opportunity to be a channel of Friends' presence and ministry as Way opens. One of the things I love the most about being in this role is how these kinds of moments unfold regularly.

### **Book Fair Related Work**

The company who takes the books from the Blue Bin behind the Book Shed recently mistakenly took a significant number of boxes of children's book donations from the Pod that were for our Book Fair. Note: I had not gone through them yet. Apparently, the door to the pod was open the day the company arrived to empty the blue bin, and the driver assumed that they were overflow (which had happened one other time a couple of years ago). The company has donated a comparable number of boxes of books, which is wonderful. Unfortunately, when the driver came to deliver these last week, he ran over the sandbox in the yard. Property Committee confirmed it is unsalvageable and will be working with Religious Education Committee to replace it, in a location.

Donations for the fair continue to come in steadily!

### **Flower Bed around the Well Cap**

Alice and Gail, the current First Day School teachers, have been in touch about doing a service project with the children. As a group, and with some input from me, they have decided to "spruce up" the area around the well cap, on the north side of the parking lot. This will be lovely!

Gretchen Baker-Smith, Westport Meeting Property Coordinator