

Property Coordinator Update
February 19, 2016

Community House Painting

Tony Martin & Company will be painting the main hall, foyer, 2 closets and kitchen of the Community House the week of March 21, 2016. I have asked Property Committee to consider whether this work necessitates a change in the use agreement to what can/can't be put up on the walls of the hall.

A work party needs to gather after worship on Sunday, March 20 to remove everything from the walls and closets in preparation for this painting work. Please be in touch with me if you can be part of such a crew. I will be wrapping up a JHYM Retreat at Wellesley Meeting that day and will not be able to be part of it.

Wi-Fi

Great thanks to Kevin and Jay who arranged for the Community House, Book Shed and Meeting House to all now have Wi-Fi! Right now the modem and router are on a small table in the room off of the stage. Property Committee will be considering whether to purchase and install a small cabinet or a shelf for them to prevent damage. Please be in touch with either of them or Gretchen for the user name and password.

Heating the Buildings

Last weekend, we arrived for First Day worship to discover that the temperature in the Community House was 46. By Tuesday, it was back up to temp. It seems the furnace and blowers just could not keep up with the frigidly cold temperatures. Nonetheless, as Friends who were present heard, I found this very stressful. I had swung by on Friday to ensure all was working right, but hadn't checked in on Saturday, so part of me was feeling negligent and responsible. The 40+ minute commute to check the heat in the winter combined with my extremely limited knowledge of what to do if it's not working right weights heavily on me.

As was previously reported, the Property Committee, Jeff Kobza (our electrician), and I have been researching which remotely programmable thermostats to purchase and have installed in the Community House and in the Meeting House. These will enable us to track and/or program the heat from home – an awesome feature! We had hoped to have these thermostats up and running earlier in the winter. Deciding on the best model for our needs has taken more time than anticipated. The good thing is that we are all feeling confident that when we finally get them installed, we'll have made our best decision. Jeff Kobza will do the installation.

Snow Plowing and Shoveling

Dave Palmer and crew have been keeping up with the snow this winter. The quality of the shoveling of the steps and ramps has been excellent, requiring far less of me than last year. Of course the weather has helped, too!

Use of the Buildings

We hosted a JHYM Retreat and a Sandwich Quarterly Meeting in January. I have fielded a number of calls regarding renting the Community House for private parties. We have 1 booked in February, 4 in March, 2 in April and 1 in May. Each of these events averages 1 onsite meeting, 2 phone calls, 3 or 4 emails, a handful of text messages, either a scanned or snail mailed signed use agreement, and my getting and depositing the rental fee. Memorial Service luncheons (which one is) provide opportunities for some pastoral care as well.

South Coast Music Together started another 10 week session on Wednesday mornings for preschoolers and their siblings and caregivers. Mary Derbyshire will be starting up another series of Alexander Technique classes in March, in addition to her twice weekly exercise classes. AA has meetings every Sunday night. The Westport Garden Club and Westport Women's Club continue to meet monthly. Partners Village Store is using

the hall for Dawn Tripp's book signing next week – the registration required attendees' list is approaching 100 at this point! (Congratulations to Dawn for all of the good reviews coming her way for Georgia.) I am so grateful for the amazing cooperation happening in the room off of the stage so that every group has access to their favorite chairs, equipment, and supplies! It's been impressive!

Outside Lights

Jeff Kobza will be replacing all of the spotlight bulbs with LED lights, and replacing the non-working motion detector over the Community House front door. Today, he took down the light immediately over that same door. The plan is for me to take this light to be repaired at King Lamp and for Jeff to re-install it afterwards.

Locksmith Work

All Security recently replaced the 2 accessible bathroom handles so that they now lock, replaced the cylinder in the lock of the door to the 2nd floor of the Meeting House, and replaced the lock on the door to the 2nd floor of Potter House. I had hoped the locksmith could also repair the front door thumb latch on the Community House. He improved it somewhat, but he said it needs to be replaced. We are looking for someone who might have the "old fashioned" part needed to keep this door handle on. In the meantime, please note that the thumb latch really does work – you just have to push it down farther than you used to.

Water Filtration

At the recent JHYM Retreat, one of my retreat staffers offered competent advice on our water, after using the sinks for 24 hours. He has been a water consultant and public health inspector in Western Mass for many years. He feels that the sediment issue we have in the water should have cleared up by now – that it is not "just a new well." He urged us to have a filter system installed in order to protect the pipes as well as improve the quality of the water. He looked at the monthly water reports we get from Analytic Balance Corp. and concluded that we only need to be concerned with the sediment – that otherwise the water seems fine. With Property Committee's input, I am pursuing having such a system installed.

Book Fair

Books continue to come in! I field 2 or 3 calls a month regarding donations and contact the Blue Bin company and Cardboard Disposal service when the containers need emptied. Every time I am on site (at least twice mid-week), I pop into the shed and straighten new donations as best I'm able so that there is room for more, and so that Greg and Ken are not walking into a leaning avalanche of books when they arrive to work on them!

Stage Lights

I still haven't fixed these. I hope to get to them this weekend!

Shelving in the Basement

I (finally) put together a second set of shelves in the basement, providing some organization for tools, fasteners, and useful supplies like extension cords. (The other set of shelves is for all painting and staining supplies.)

Gutter Cleaning

I was not able to locate anyone to do this work before the freeze. This is on my To Do list for early spring.

Oven Left On

I recently discovered that the oven was left on at 200 degrees for several days, during a stretch of time when no one but us and AA had used the building (and they don't use the oven). It is a mystery how this happened. Please check the oven before leaving the building to be sure it is off. Thanks!

Gretchen Baker-Smith, Westport Meeting Property Coordinator