

Property Coordinator Update January 3, 2015

Whoops! The last update was mid-November. My apologies! It's been a busy time!

Use of the Buildings by Others

November and December were very busy months for the Community House. We had birthday parties, Christmas parties, a wedding, a retreat, and a number of community groups using the buildings. The wedding was particularly satisfying; everyone was so grateful and 'in love' with the property! One of the nice things has been the number of families who have been back for a 2nd year; I enjoy the ongoing connections.

Community House and Meeting House Furnaces

Brodeur & Sons had to make several service calls to work on the furnaces in November. The Community House furnace's fan, which is under the crawl space above the kitchen rather than near the furnace in the basement, had not been serviced in quite some time. Brodeur's management apologized for not conveying this information (the location of the fan) to all of the service people who have come to the property in the last few years. Replacing the fan's filter, and then opening up 2 floor grates that were closed, significantly increased the ability of the furnace to get the building up to temp.

However, the furnace in the Meeting House took 3 separate service calls before the matter was finally resolved in the middle of a JYM Retreat on the property. First Day Worship was held in the Community House one Sunday due to a lack of heat in the Meeting House. The fans required several new parts, some adjustments, and a lot of oil, and the board for the cooling fan had to be replaced. We also discovered that the exhaust duct work had been recalled in 1998 and had to be replaced. The upshot is that the furnace is now working more efficiently and is noticeably much quieter, too!

Well Water

The water passed the 2nd test in December with ABC Analytics. The water looks much clearer than it has since the new well was dug. This is all encouraging. Property Committee will discern whether or not to continue getting estimates for a water treatment system at its next meeting.

Gutters

Many thanks to Kevin Lee who supervised the cleaning of the Community House gutters by a local young adult.

Yard Work

Again, thanks to Kevin for cutting down 2 dead trees on the north side of the property. A medium sized limb from one of the trees immediately behind the book shed came down last weekend. Tim Palmer's Landscaping Company took care of all of the leaves on the ground at the end of autumn.

Community House Floor

Butch Belanger lightly sanded and polyurethane-d the floor on New Year's Eve. Beforehand, I completely cleared the hall and stage, emptied out both closets, cleared the kitchen counters, and covered the kitchen doorway with plastic to reduce the cleanup afterwards. Afterwards, I took the opportunity to wash the woodwork, the lower half of the windows, the fireplace, the closets, and hard to reach cobwebs. It all looks

better. Friends may recall that two years ago the wood was sanded bare and 3 coats of polyurethane were applied. This is the 2nd year that we've had one additional coat applied between Christmas and New Year's in order to maintain a protective coat on the floors. Thanks to Butch for being so flexible with the use of the building schedule!

Photos of the Meeting House

Jean Schnell, member of Framingham Meeting and gifted photographer, spent a day in December on site taking photos of our Meeting House as part of an ongoing project of Quaker Meetings in New England. She loved our Meeting House. It was quite cloudy the day she was here, though, so I urged her to consider returning in the spring to catch more of the light! She will let us know when the photos from Westport and her reflections of it are posted up on her website. You can see what she's done so far here:
<http://www.jeanschnell.com/blog>

Westport Board of Health Certification Renewals

I took care of the required food handler's permit, documentation of employees, potable water, and proof of workers' compensation policy as required by law. We are all set for 2015.

Bathroom Work

Daughter Katey and I finished painting the 2 front bathrooms: walls, woodwork, baseboard heaters, and doors. I also replaced the toilet seat in one and the toilet's lever, arm and chain in the other. The toilet seat project was rather epic as the bolts were quote rusted. Meeting is now the proud owner of a small hack saw that was required to do the job. I'm happy to share my "How to Change a Toilet Seat in 22 Steps" with any who would like such a resource!

Basement Cleanup

Monthly Meeting for Business approved the purchase of a set of metal shelves in the basement to help with the organization of tools, paints, and other property supplies.

Jean Kennison's Table Repaired

Thanks to Clyde Cottingham for repairing what, according to legend, was once the sole FDS table. It feels like it might last another 50 years.

Lost & Found

Friends, especially parents, should note that I have started a Lost & Found tub on the bottom of the large set of shelves in the FDS classroom. Please check there for sweatshirts, hats, and nerf footballs!

Volunteer Opportunities

I am looking for a few Friends to

1. Help clean out/organize the room by the stage
2. Carry the porch furniture on the back deck down to the basement
3. Spot clean a few of the blue chairs

Gretchen Baker-Smith, Westport Meeting Property Coordinator