



Quarry Bulletin

September - October, 2019



Best Wishes to our New Board of Trustees



L-R: Joan Murphy, Neil Horwitz, Frank Bashore, Tom Sangiolo, Joe Rorke

Joan Murphy - President
*Liaison to Outreach Committee &
Architectural Standards Committee*

Frank Bashore - Vice President
Liaison to Property Committee

Tom Sangiolo - Treasurer
Liaison to Finance Committee & Clubhouse

Neil Horwitz - Secretary
*Liaison to Social Committee,
Insurance and Legal*

Joe Rorke - Member at Large
*Liaison to and Member of the
Water & Sewer Committee*

Looking Forward ~ contributed by Sandy Kelly

The new Trustee Board met several times prior to their first official meeting on October 29th. The purpose was to establish a fluid transfer of knowledge between the outgoing and incoming board. This wise planning helps to preserve the 15 years of institutional knowledge that many volunteers and past boards instituted.

During her first president's report, Joan Murphy identified the following upcoming goals that they hope to address during the next year:

- Succession planning - overlapping knowledge and making data, documents, keys, knowledge and access available to a backup person in the event of a catastrophe.
- Investigate/Identify and prioritize what tasks are likely candidate tasks to hand off to a Management Company.
- Update Policies & Procedures and Rules & Regulations to be consistent with each other and with the Condominium Trust.
- Morin's contract expires in 2020. Property will explore options after the Budget cycle.
- Complete and pass DEP permit requirements
- Continue Tyngsboro Water conversations and negotiate a conclusion.
- Explore Clubhouse options for usable space, more functionality, comfort for the 90+ people using it for social events, "better office space" without changing overall footprint. Improve the flooring from current carpet. Potential improvements needed to roof and siding? Get estimates and develop a plan.

Property Update

As transitions take place with our committees it is a perfect time to send ***thanks*** to the following Property Committee volunteers who are stepping down to make room for more strong backs and shoulders, fresh ideas and hopefully more involvement. Perhaps **you** can help?

- Co-Chair Bob Morton has answered questions, helped residents expeditiously resolve home issues, checked on architectural standards and found either volunteer help or approved service providers. Our property rep at Evergreen Management, John Laudate was sad to hear he was moving on and said "working with Bob was a smooth process and his strong communication made it easier to get things accomplished." Bob will be retiring at the end of this year. Now is a good time to transition in and learn the ropes.
- Jack Bilodeau and Paul Currier are due a world of "thanks" for the many years they have spent keeping our brick walkways and patios in good repair. Each year they could be found on their knees replacing broken bricks and filling in stone dust. One year, in order to save the village money while maintaining the exact style of bricks we have, they literally pulled up a whole patio, moved all the bricks to safe storage and replaced the patio with new bricks!
- Phil MacPherson has graciously been our liaison with Morin's and our landscaping/lawn crew over the years while maintaining a separate residence in Florida more than half the year! Simply put, "thanks Phil for such dedication."
- And not to be overlooked, Larry Tobiason has been involved in many volunteer jobs since VSR's beginnings including trustee, property and overseeing our tree maintenance initiatives. As Larry "retires" from the VSR volunteer list we send a "big thank you for all of your hard work over the years."

A message from Past President Carlene Craib

~ as delivered at the September 25th Annual Village Meeting.

First of all, I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as a Trustee for the last three years. As the name implies, you have trusted me to help lead our Association evenhandedly, diligently, and with close attention to all the matters that come before the Board. It has been, overall, a most positive experience, and I have greatly appreciated all the cooperation, willingness to serve when asked and kind words of thanks all of you have offered over the years. I have a few observations about our Association I would like to share, with your indulgence, from the vantage point of a long time resident and two-term BOT member.

Our Association has many strengths. We have a large volunteer network and strong engagement by those volunteers in all that they do; hundreds of hours are spent each year on Village tasks. We have a commitment to planning and forward thinking on the one hand, but on the other a commitment to maintaining continuity and building on the achievements of the past. We are fiscally prudent and try to respond to the priorities that we hear coming from resident feedback. Our communication is for the most part robust: blasts, the *Quarry Bulletin*, and now the opportunities available on *TownSquare* keep us very informed.

However, I do see some challenges in our future. The Village is aging, and I don't just mean you and I. The infrastructure is also beginning to show its age, from peeling paint to overgrown trees, and we are going to face hard work ahead to deal with these issues, issues that we may find too complex or time-consuming for our resident volunteers. Perhaps it is time for our leadership to clearly spell out our approach we require to some management issues and then let the management company do the job according to our directions, with our oversight, but not hands on work, distancing residents from the day to day work. There is a balance to be struck here, of course. There is still a strong cadre of residents very willing to take on large jobs and small, but perhaps the question should be asked when we have someone resign from a position, "Could this be handled differently?" Our Association, all of you, is exceptional. But any organization needs to evaluate itself and take stock of its health and well-being and plan for a way to maintain that into the future. In the beginning of my term I convened the VSR 2020 meeting to get us talking about some of these issues. The feedback that I got then was pretty much that we like it the way it is. Well, now it's nearly 2020. Maybe it's time to begin a conversation about how we want to go forward into 2023. And that's your assignment. Think about my suggestion and continue to make your opinions and ideas known to the Board. Come to their meetings, talk to any of them informally, write letters to the editor of the *Quarry Bulletin*, get involved with a Committee; this is your community, make your voice heard.

Thanks for all your encouragement and hard, hard work over these past three years. I'll miss not being your rep on the Board and look forward to finding a new niche.

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- ➡ The most current *committee & volunteers* list is available at villageatstoneridge.com
Committee meetings are always posted on the monthly calendar.
 - ➡ *If you have not signed up yet for **TownSquare** please contact [Linda Cyr](#) at Evergreen Management or call 800-973-4300. She will help you through the process.*

Village Meetings

Village Meetings have been well attended since being moved to the first Wednesday of the month. In September we held our annual Meet the Candidate's Night.

Following in October, Dick Coleman graciously arranged a visit from two members of Westford's Recycling Commission. Guidelines for recycling are quite different now that we need to find new sources to accept them.

Currently Westford pays about \$70 per ton of trash that is taken to the incinerator, that is above the trash collection contract fee. Recycling tonnage is unlimited; it does not incur an extra charge. Westford will pay \$561,000 this year to incinerate our trash.

What to recycle

<u>Recycle it:</u> <u>It must be clean</u>	<u>When in doubt:</u> <u>Trash IT</u>
Aluminum Trays & Foil (OK to roll in ball)	Aerosol cans
Plastic soda bottles (replace cap on top)	Plastic bags (Bring to super market collection)
Paper egg cartons	Shredded paper
Envelopes	Juice, milk, soup cartons
Plastic containers (replace lids on containers)	Styrofoam egg cartons
Greeting cards with no metallic inks	Colored plastic cups
Glass bottles	Styrofoam packing material (UPS at Cornerstone will accept "peanuts")
Metal lids to glass jars	Prescription bottles
Lotion bottles	Spiral bound notebook
Newspaper	Receipts
Pizza box (Grease OK)	Wax paper
OTC pill bottles over 2" diameter	Gift Wrap
Card board 3'x 3' sections	Glossy ads and circulars
Yogurt containers	Black plastic trays
Plastic milk jugs	Coat hangers
Metal food and beverage cans	Hanging file folders
Clear plastic take out containers (NO Black plastic trays)	Paper towels, napkins plates
Bottles, cans, plastics, paper, and cardboard can be mixed together.	Wax coated paper milk and juice boxes
	Loose caps and lids

NOT SURE?? Go to: <https://recyclesmartma.org/>

Be aware that if our recycling company rejects the load it will go to the trash and it is possible they could refuse the whole town's delivery.

Residential and municipal recycling in Westford are picked up by Waste Management. Should you encounter an issue, please call Waste Management at 1-800-972-4545 and if your question is not answered, please contact the Town Manager's Office at 978-692-5501 extension #1.



Dick Coleman and Recycling Commissioners present recycling update,

Please review the following information for **best practices** making our recycling successful:

- *Recycling in **plastic bags** will be rejected. PLEASE NO PLASTIC BAGS!
- *Rinse and clean glass, plastic or metal containers as best as possible.
- *Recycling and trash must be at the curb no later than 7 a.m. for pick up.
- *Recycling and trash pickups may be delayed by 1 day during holiday weeks.
- *Recycling and trash must be separate and clearly marked.
- *Cardboard must be flattened and cut into sizes no greater than 3 feet by 3 feet

Many of the larger grocery store chains such as Whole Foods and Market Basket accept plastic bags for recycling.

Coming Wednesday December 4th ~ Meet William Shuttleworth... he just finished walking across America!!!

As Joyce Minosh tells it, "You never know what interesting people you might meet. While driving in Chelmsford, last May, I saw a man who was walking, carrying a backpack with a flag and a sign. I pulled over, parked and walked with him for a while. He told me that he was a retired veteran who had just begun his 3,300 mile walk across America to raise awareness around veteran issues. This 71-year-old veteran began his walk on May 15th from Newburyport, MA and finished in California on August 31st. I think you will enjoy meeting William, I sure did." He dubbed his walk "Vets Don't Forget Vets." You can read more online [here](#). Plan to come and show support for his efforts and hear about his experiences.



Recorded by WestfordCat at VSR

Town historian, Geoff Hall, brought his knowledge of Westford to the Village at Stone Ridge on February 6, 2019 with a special slide show presentation. Along with researcher, Richard McLaughlin, Geoff shares the highlights of Westford's history from the earliest known inhabitants of the town to the present-day population growth.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvKxNibeZ_Q

And with Gratitude

Tom Barry and Ron Caterino have just completed 15 years as members and chairmen of the VSR Finance Committee. At the November Village Meeting they presented their 15th Annual Finance Report to discuss the budget they proposed and that the Trustees approved at their October 29th meeting. Not only have they committed hundreds of hours over the years gathering data and figures surrounding the VSR budget but they have saved residents from paying for accounting services. While it is almost unheard of to have a condo owner's homeowner association fee drop from year to year, our own finance committee has succeeded in doing just that in the past.

After reviewing the details of both the Operations and Water & Sewer budgets including the 2019 projected final expenses, and the 2020 budgeted expenses, Tom announced that the 2020 W&S fee would remain the same as 2019 at \$135.00 per month for all residents. Your 2020 Condo Fee will increase by 3.3% over your 2019 rate. For your information, a copy of the 2020 Budget Presentation will be available in the clubhouse library and on Town Square.

On or about December 1st, all owners will receive a letter from the VSR Condo Association President noting your specific 2020 Condo Fee as well as the 2020 W& S fee of \$135.00. These new rates will be effective on January 1, 2020.



Guess this fella up on Gatecrest heard enough!

Let's Play Cards!

That is exactly what a number of Villagers did at the Labor Day Poker Run organized by Anna Ernemark & Dick Martel along with Ken Hyle and the Social Committee. Even those who didn't know how to play agreed it was a fun afternoon as we spread out through the clubhouse due to rain.



Ladies...

Pizza & Pajamas

Movie Night
A good time was had by all.



Jimmy Mazz Returned to VSR...

*...and once again it was a fabulous show.
Skip and Pauline did a wonderful job planning,
setting up and putting it all together for us.*



*There was some swinging and
swayin', no records playin'
We were dancin' in our seats...*



*September was a busy month
in the Village, but lots more
was still to come*

Here comes October!



Welcome to the Oktoberfest Biergarten



*The Hostesses: Stephanie, Sandy,
Luise and Debbie*



*The Servers and Samplers: Buzz and Jack
with Nancy and Rick.*



*The Tasters: sampling Brats and
Wurst, Sauerkraut, Potato Salad,
Meatballs, Apple Strudel and more.*



*The Posers: Joe, Stephanie, Paul
and Larry*





of Halloween at the Village!



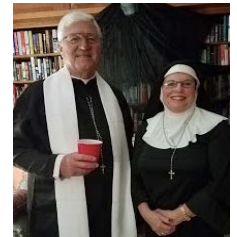
Yes, I AM your neighbor!



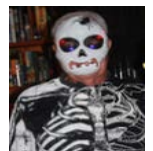
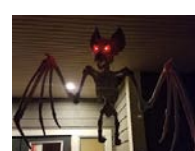
Thanks Tink, all her idea!



Welcoming All Aboard...



Motley Crew



More photos coming soon to the VSR webpage: stay tuned for an announcement about our Halloween Slideshow.



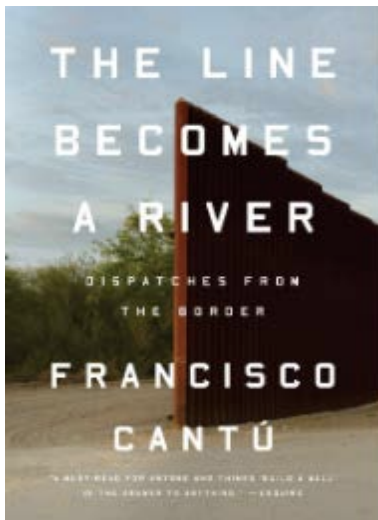
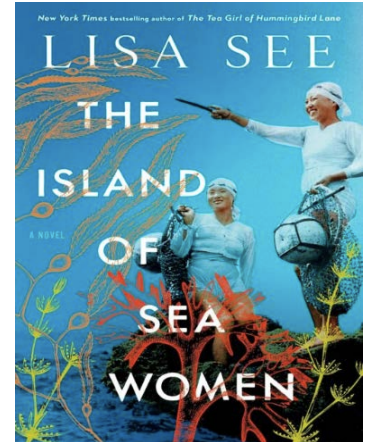
BOOK CLUB NEWS
By Dianne Marston



Join us at the next VSR Book Club meeting to be held on Thursday, Dec. 5th. The book to be discussed is ***The Island of the Sea Women*** by Lisa See. *The Island of Sea Women* introduces readers to the fierce and unforgettable female divers of Jeju Island and the dramatic history that shaped their lives.

Lisa See's mesmerizing new historical novel...celebrates women's strengths—and the strength of their friendships.
~ O, The Oprah Magazine

"Compelling ... takes readers on a journey spanning generations — in this case 1938 to 2008 — as moments of cherished friendship, unspeakable tragedy and, in the end, a plot twist worthy of Raymond Chandler unfold." ~ Associated Press



On January 16 we will discuss the nonfiction book, ***The Line Becomes a River*** by Francisco Cantu.

**** NAMED A TOP 10 BOOK OF 2018 BY NPR and THE WASHINGTON POST**

**** WINNER OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES BOOK PRIZE IN CURRENT INTEREST**

**** FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE NONFICTION AWARD**

The instant *New York Times* bestseller, "A must-read for anyone who thinks 'build a wall' is the answer to anything." —*Esquire*

All are welcome to attend these meetings!! Refreshments in the Clubhouse at 1:00. Discussion at 1:30



Using their good judgement Tom West, Dianne Marston and Judy Premru chose the awards for Halloween costumes.





Jayne's Pancake Breakfast

With busy lives it sometimes gets tricky scheduling all the events that we would like to plan, but when we finally do it, we certainly get it right! Thanks to Jayne Currier, and a trusted work crew of neighbors, about 60 Villagers enjoyed a delicious pancake breakfast, with all of the fixings on a recent Saturday morning. Cheers to all the chefs, servers and neighbors who made it happen.



Doris Kilayko
at 4 Sandstone Road



Check the online calendar for any changes and times to verify upcoming events:

<https://www.villageatstoneridge.com/calendar/>

*Upcoming Events at the Clubhouse
Social Committee Meetings are on
2nd Mondays at 7:00 pm
Please join us!*

Plan Ahead:

<i>November 9</i>	<i>Thanks for Giving</i>
<i>November 21</i>	<i>Floral Workshop</i>
<i>December 3</i>	<i>Trustee Meeting</i>
<i>December 4</i>	<i>Village Meeting</i>
<i>December 5</i>	<i>Book Group Discussion</i>
<i>December 10</i>	<i>Holiday Caroling</i>
<i>December 14</i>	<i>Holiday Party</i>
<i>December 31</i>	<i>New Year's Eve Happy Hour</i>
<i>January 1</i>	<i>New Year's Day Brunch</i>
<i>February 22</i>	<i>French Night</i>

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The Quarry Bulletin is a bi-monthly newsletter to help keep you informed about events and information at The Village at Stone Ridge.
Email articles and photos to the Quarry Bulletin

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