



Quarry Bulletin

March - April 2023



Spring Has Sprung, Property Day 2023

On Saturday, May 6, thirty-five volunteers worked to give the village a spring spruce up. Projects included removing litter, clubhouse cleaning, and refurbishing various infrastructure items. The morning started with coffee, tea, muffins, and donuts. And lots of conversation. Eventually we broke up into teams and started the day's work.



Submitted by Doug Craib – Property CoChair

continued

The litter team separated into three groups and walked the village from Landview Road to Tyngsboro Road. By all accounts a record amount of litter was picked up. A large brush cleanup team worked at quarry park, around the old stone building, and along the ridge overlooking the beaver pond.

Infrastructure efforts included refreshing pin oak beaver protection, cleaning fences of lichen and mildew, and pulling up unused irrigation drip lines. One of the four remaining original street signs in the village was replaced with a pressure treated post and plastic sleeve. All the Fernwood driveway drains were cleaned, and the last hydrant painted. In addition, all our storm catch basins were measured to identify those needing professional cleaning.

Numerous groups have been working on spring cleaning the clubhouse. On Saturday the focus was on the exercise room machines and windows.

It was fun to connect with friends and meet some new neighbors,
and get a lot of work done!

*And we do know how to have fun...
Whether it is Social Committee or a >>>>>*



Judy Pancoast spent an evening entertaining us as Karen Carpenter. She was great.

Singing at Karaoke Night



*With lots of chatter and always yummy food,
Social Committee celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a Happy Hour.*

Our Origins

~submitted by Carlene Craib



George Heiter

George Heiter and Paul Currier are OG's. As members of the original Committee set up in 2004 to oversee the transition from governance by the builder to the control of the unit owners, they have watched the Village at Stone Ridge as it morphed from piles of dirt, discarded tires and



Paul Currier

a few houses scattered along Stone Ridge Road and Sandstone to the showpiece property it is today.

This transformation came about gradually as the property was built out, and our governance also evolved gradually, with the tone and basic structure set by this Transition Committee. This Committee had 5 members, and only George and Paul are still living in the Village. This group then set up six Committees to handle the transition: Master Deed/Legal, Property, Builder, Municipal Affairs, Finance and Budget, and Social/Clubhouse. The May 2004 *Quarry Bulletin* reports “enthusiastic signups” for all Committees.

I sat down recently with George and Paul to talk about their time on the Transition Committee and I also spoke with George about his tenure as a member of the first Board of Trustees, elected in 2004.

From the beginning, George felt that there seemed to be a shared vision among those first volunteers about what was important: developing a community that encouraged personal involvement in the care of our homes and surroundings and the well-being of the residents. Paul noted the great enthusiasm among those first volunteers who were excited to take on the responsibility of governing the Village. All those involved wanted to make key decisions themselves and were willing to put in a considerable amount of time to make the system they were developing work. Since no one had experience with condo living, those first meetings were brainstorming about what the critical areas were and who would be responsible for those. Those first Committees that the Transition Committee set up (Master Deed/Legal, Property, Builder, Municipal Affairs, Finance and Budget, and Social/Clubhouse) reflect the attention to detail and concern for all aspects of life in the Village. Some Committees disbanded when their jobs were done (Builder and Municipal Affairs), but the core has remained, and more were added as new needs arose.

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George and Paul both noted that a priority was overseeing the landscaping and making sure that the natural surroundings matched the quality of the buildings, first class all around, as George put it. Paul remembered that a key goal was to retain the charm and beauty of this unique spot. Another important role for these first Committees members was to get as much information from the builder (documents, maps, schematics, operating manuals, etc.) as they could, an undertaking that has proved valuable time and time again.

George was a member of the first elected Board of Trustees in 2004. An important job for this Board was to define Committee roles and tasks each would be responsible for. From the beginning, George felt that the BOT's members goal was to reach consensus on what action they were taking and why they were taking it. He noted that as with all "families," there was sometimes disagreement, but his overall memory was of collegiality and a shared vision. They strove for transparency, and this is obvious from the *Quarry Bulletin* articles in the first few years in which the leaders of Committees reported extensively on their activities and encouraged others to join them. In George's opinion, the Committee system (set up by the Transition Committee and fostered by the Trustees) "provided the support for the community to thrive and the chance to participate and be involved."

When I asked George what the most difficult issue that he faced as a Trustee in the early years was, he responded that it was encouraging volunteers to follow through on what they had committed to, a perennial problem for leaders. But judging from the many reports in the *Quarry Bulletin*, residents of VSR were uncommonly inclined to volunteer and posted a great number of accomplishments over those first few years.

George's tenure on the Board ended in 2009, but he remained active on several Committees and was a "go-to" person whenever a new chairperson needed perspective on past practices or advice on a thorny issue. He said he was tempted to step back into a Board role several times, but with his wife Frederike's declining health, he chose not to take on that role again.

Paul said he once was given the advice to "never serve on a condo Board of Trustees," and he has taken that advice. He has, however, been a very active volunteer, doing outdoor work ranging from rebuilding walkways to digging drains, and has since then retained a keen interest in our governance, often providing valuable feedback and perspective.

When asked what he enjoyed most about living at VSR George said it was the remarkable group of people who live here and the "family atmosphere." Paul echoed that when he said that he underestimated what a strong sense of community would develop here, and the wide range of support residents give to one another. Both felt that the initial governance volunteers set the tone and were impressed by how newcomers seem still to fit in quickly and begin taking active roles.

George closed his conversation with me with a “thank you to the large number of residents who commit great amounts of time to maintain our quality of life at The Village at Stone Ridge.” I want to add my thank you to Paul and George for such an enjoyable look back at our very beginnings.

In my next installment I intend to talk more in depth to Tom Barry, Doug Craib, Judy Culver about their roles as chairs of the first Finance and Budget, Builder, and Municipal Affairs Transition Committees. If anyone else has remembrances of our first few years of working together to shape the community, give me a call. It has been a lot of fun for me to read the very first *Quarry Bulletins* (starting in 2004), and I encourage you to have a look too, if only to see the pictures of many of us 20 years younger!

These neighbors love it here too...



Female Downy Woodpeckers fighting for suet.



Gobble Gobble



When down by the pond look closely for our 3 new babies.

Change to VSR Deck Modification Guidelines

At the April Trustee Meeting the following wording was approved for VSR homeowners.

When the Property Committee determines that a wood deck front porch needs to be totally replaced, composite decking shall be used and installed in accordance with the several approved Unit Modification Specifications at no cost to the unit owner. As long as the proposed work meets these specifications, there is no need to seek ASR approval or submit unit modification forms.

Additionally: If a unit owner wishes to replace a non-failing deck surface with composite the unit owner shall pay the full cost for the deck replacement according to the existing ASR Unit Modification Specifications, including notification of ASR about the work and inspection after the work is done.

All unit owner Modification Specifications and required forms can be found under

Resources on the village website or directly at

https://villageatstoneridge.com/residents/governing_documents

News from the Environmental Resource Group

The first program of the Environmental Resource Group (ERG) was held on March 29th at the Club House and was well attended. Susan Thomas, Westford Sustainability Coordinator, spoke about town goals and initiatives including ways to save money on heating and electricity, Westford Power Options Program, Defend Trees and Wetlands, and joining Westford Climate Action. Here's a link to the presentation for anyone interested.

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AvbS5xf7ytEbg5UK3XRWvpPva4IEVw?e=ACRNqgm>



Did you know?

The USDA reports that there are more than 3,500 species of bees alone increasing crop yields, and it estimates that one out of every 3 bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths, birds, bats, beetles, and other insects.

Our next program will be on Thurs. May 25, at 7pm, in the Clubhouse

A representative from Mass Save will make a presentation about Mass Save and its free services, which include home energy audits and access to rebates on products to improve energy efficiency. There will be a presentation, followed by a question and answer period. We will provide refreshments as well. A reminder, a Zoom link for those wishing to use Zoom, will be sent a few days before the program.

Tidbits from The Property Committee

- Morins is happy to remove gardening debris generated by unit owners. This includes weeds, grass, and light pruning in small amounts. Debris should be left out later in the week to prevent damage to the grass.
- Please do not discard plants along the road or tree lines. Our bark mulch is pure hemlock bark with no additives such as wood pieces or color and is double ground.
- Also note, unit owners are responsible for door frame maintenance such as painting.

Floral Arranging with Thelma



Another great event, thank you Thelma!



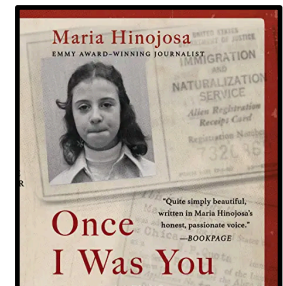
BOOK CLUB NEWS

By Dianne Marston



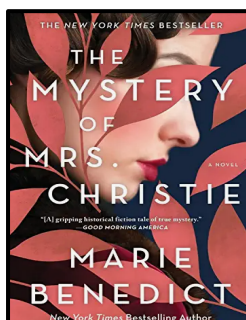
Our VSR Book Club has continued to meet in the Clubhouse both in person and on Zoom. If you would like to join us, our refreshments and socializing begin at 1:00, followed by our book discussion in the library at 1:30.

Our May 25 meeting features the book *Once I Was You: A Memoir of Love and Hate in a Torn America* by Maria Hinojosa. "The Emmy Award-winning journalist and anchor of NPR's Latino USA tells the story of immigration in America through her family's experiences and decades of reporting [Book Page]



In *Once I Was You*, Maria shares her intimate experience growing up Mexican American on the South Side of Chicago. She offers a personal and illuminating account of how the rhetoric around immigration has not only long informed American attitudes toward outsiders, but also sanctioned willful negligence and profiteering at the expense of our country's most vulnerable populations, charging us with the broken system we have today.

"An urgent call to fellow Americans to open their eyes to the immigration crisis and understand that it affects us all, this honest and heartrending memoir paints a vivid portrait of how we got here and what it means to be a survivor, a feminist, a citizen, and a journalist who owns her voice while striving for the truth." *Amazon*



The book chosen for our June 29 meeting is *The Mystery of Mrs. Christie* by Marie Benedict.

"In December 1926, Agatha Christie goes missing. Investigators find her empty car on the edge of a deep, gloomy pond, the only clues some tire tracks nearby and a fur coat left in the car—strange for a frigid night. Her World War I veteran husband and her daughter have no knowledge of her whereabouts, and England unleashes an unprecedented manhunt to find the up-and-coming mystery author.

Eleven days later, she reappears, just as mysteriously as she disappeared, claiming amnesia, and providing no explanations for her time away.

The puzzle of those missing eleven days has persisted. With her trademark historical fiction exploration into the shadows of the past, acclaimed author Marie Benedict brings us into the world of Agatha Christie, imagining why such a brilliant woman would find herself at the center of such murky historical mysteries. What is real, and what is mystery? What role did her unfaithful husband play, and what was he not telling investigators? The puzzle of those missing eleven days has persisted. With her trademark historical fiction exploration into the shadows of the past, acclaimed author Marie Benedict brings us into the world of Agatha Christie, imagining why such a brilliant woman would find herself at the center of such murky historical mysteries.

As always, all Villagers are welcome to attend! A special welcome goes out to those who are new to VSR.



***Our Volunteers Make
a Difference and
help us save \$\$\$\$
You can help too!***

FOR INFORMATION

Contact vrssecretary@gmail.com

Also see upcoming committee meetings below
that you might consider joining.

Upcoming Events ~

*(some of these events require sign-up – watch the
mailroom bulletin board)*

- May 17 Finance Committee
- May 18 Property Committee
- May 23 Trustee Meeting
- May 25 Mass Save Presentation
- May 25 Book Discussion Group
- May 29 Memorial Day Cookout
- June 3 Jimmy Mazz
- June 7 Ladies Night at Bamboo
- June 7 Men's Steak & Ale Night
- June 10 AM Coffee at the Quarry
- June 12 Social Committee
- June 15 Property Committee
- June 21 Finance Committee
- June 27 Trustee Meeting
- June 29 Book Discussion Group
- July 4 Ice Cream Social
- July 19 Finance Committee
- July 20 Property Committee
- July 22 Beach Party

***Events are also listed on our calendar at
villageatstoneridge.com***



**USE SIDEWALKS WHENEVER
POSSIBLE.**

**SLOW DOWN. SPEED LIMIT IN
THE VILLAGE IS 15 MPH.**

STOP AT STOP SIGNS.

***Who should you call in an
EMERGENCY***

***Evergreen Management at
(800) 973-4300 or (603) 622-7000***

***If a Grinder Pump Alarm goes off or a
Red Light is on, this is considered an
EMERGENCY:***

***Call Evergreen Management at
(800) 973-4300 or (603) 622-7000***

AND

***Marsha Wyman
(978) 857-9200***

Evergreen Management Group

(603) 622-7000

Monday - Thursday 8:30 - 5:00

Friday 9:00 - 3:00 John

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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
QuarryBulletin@gmail.com*

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