

STONEBRIDGE NEWS

Contacting the Board Requests must be made in writing to 54A Muirfield Ct. or
Stonebridgehomeowner98@gmail.com.

The Board meets monthly to review issues/requests. The minutes in the newsletter show the date of the next meeting. After the meeting, you will be notified. Please, **only** call the Board if you have an **emergency**



Volume 27, Issue 11

November 1, 2023

Holiday Luncheon

Thursday December 21st at 12:30pm

Longobardi's Restaurant in the

Imperial Plaza Wappingers Falls 1574 Route 9

\$40 per person (includes tax & tip)

Bread, Salad, Pasta and Dessert

Choices: Chicken Francese, Chicken Parmigiana,

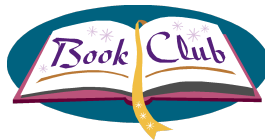
Eggplant Parmigiana, or Broiled Grouper

Beverage: Iced Tea, Soda, Coffee, or Tea and a Cash Bar

RSVP by Dec. 15th

Mail or drop off your check made out to Beth Mostransky at 97 Turnberry Ct.

For more information call Beth at 845-232-5261



Stonebridge Book Club

Book: The Light We Carry by Michele Obama

When: Thursday, November 16th at 3 PM

Where: 28 Prestwick Court

RSVP: Sandra Rae at 845-471-4541

We are limiting the group to 12 people. For our meetings, we ask that you call to reserve after first receiving your Newsletter. To keep it fair, no reservations will be accepted beforehand.



Book Club Holiday Luncheon

Thursday, December 14 at noon

Double O Restaurant

Route 9, Wappingers Falls

RSVP Ginny Marcus by December 10 at 845-471-3230

Reminder: please bring 2 suggestions for 2024's book selections



Please Scoop the Poop



Please remember to scoop up after your dog. Also, if you have a friend or dog walker take your dog for a walk, please remind them to scoop up the mess. There's been extra messes left on Muirfield and Turnberry especially.

Helping Hands



Volunteers have been the cornerstone of making our Stonebridge community vibrant. There are many ways in which individuals can contribute. This article's sole purpose is to seek your assistance with committees/tasks already in place, or ideas for an overseer or liaison to additional tasks.

Our bylaws identify certain standing committees. The obvious is the board.

Occasionally residents question whether a managed board would be more successful. In researching the feasibility in the past, the cost of a managed board would be considerable. It would still rely on a volunteer board to feed issues and opinions, and it would drive up the cost of our HOA fees. We have never seriously entertained the plan since we have had qualified board members representing the interest of the community.

The garden committee is a standing committee with many interested members. Diana Salsberg chairs the committee and welcomes as many interested people as desired. The summertime months have sign ups for watering. People who enjoy gardening could be involved with a large or small-time commitment. It is your choice. There is a line item within the budget for the garden committee. This allotment receives frequent donations. The health of those funds has contributed to replacing pool chairs, obtaining higher powered lasers for geese reduction, and items not typically associated with the traditional garden maintenance. The proof of their successful work is noted each time you drive or walk through our beautiful grounds.

There are other important services which are carried out by individual volunteers. Such items include (but not limited to) identifying and sending family condolences and donations upon one's death of a community member (Mia Henry), the liaison to LCS who has direct and ongoing communication with the LCS supervisors (Peter Rae), the liaison to our masons for walkway needs (Donna Thomas), the Welcome Committee for new residents (Sandra Rae and Mia Henry), maintenance of our digital spreadsheet for the community roster (Anne Constantinople), compilation of the monthly newsletter (Linda Shekita), the Sunshine committee (Beth Mostransky), and and the Caring Committee (Arlene Barresi). Other committees include: the library committee, financial review, election, by-laws, book club, pool, infrastructure/maintenance , and the architectural committees.

There is always a need for additional help. A few of the open services include the Pest Tech liaison (being vacated by Edie Stout), the liaison to our tree trimmer (being vacated by Edie Stout), and support for our Stonebridge website (currently maintained by Donna Augustine).

If you're thinking of ways in which a more organized approach to services can be performed, we are welcome to all ideas. It doesn't mean you have to perform the service, but if it's something you think would facilitate the process, please send an email to Stonebridgehomeowner98@gmail.com. Or if you'd like to be a part of one of the existing committees, please also send an email.

All volunteers are greatly appreciated! You're doing a fabulous job!

It Takes a Village!

**Thank
You!**

Thank you to everyone who came out to the October Columbus Day Picnic. Everyone enjoyed the variety of food along with the delicious hotdogs served. Gus Nolan, our revered Veteran of our communal gatherings, welcomed all. Thanks so much to Joan, Eileen, Ginny V, and Beth for set-up and to all that helped with clean-up afterwards.

**Thank
You!**

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You!**

The Garden Committee was given a gift of 4 healthy boxwood plants, by David Larson @ #85. David also planted them up front near our entrance. Eventually they will hide the unsightly electrical boxes currently dominating the spot. Thank you David!

Thanks to the Election Committee for making sure absentee ballots and regular ballots were printed, distributed, collected and calculated accurately: Ginny Marcus, Beth Mostransky, Eileen Nye and Margaret Teliho.

**Thank
You!**

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Each and every month many helpers make the newsletter readily available via email/snail mail including: Donna Augustine, Roberta Distler, Sandy Goloway, Donna Gruberg, Carol Holland, Rita Lewis, Christine Manning, Ginny Marcus, Beth Mostransky, Jinnie Pinchbeck, Linda Shekita, and Edie Stout.



Stonebridge Homeowners' Meeting

The HOA's meeting was held with the Stonebridge residents on Tuesday October 3, 2023 at Orville Todd Middle School. The following members of the Board were present: Donna Augustine, President; Steve Bartlett, Treasurer; Janet Ellsworth, Corresponding Secretary; Edie Stout, Recording Secretary; John Weisman and Brenda Berry, Members at Large; and Martin Charwat, Vice President had an excused absence.

Donna Augustine brought the meeting to order at 6.05 PM by welcoming everyone in attendance. HOA Board members and all of our new homeowners from the past year were introduced.

Steve Bartlett gave an overview of our major expenses during this year dominated by the cost of replacing the roads and curbs of Turnberry and Birkdale. As a result, we are expecting a deficit of about \$10,000 this calendar year which will be absorbed by our Reserves. For the future, after completing the repaving of Gleneagles, major repairs or replacements will be street lighting, sidewalks, repairs to sewer lines, tree maintenance and other items associated with the aging of the buildings and property. All of our continued operational costs will continue to be driven by inflation in labor and materials.

Brenda Berry presented the need for a reserve study. The purpose of a reserve is to ensure that the HOA accounts hold sufficient money in reserve to cover catastrophic emergencies. Stonebridge has never completed this type of study. Without allocated reserve funds, we put ourselves in a risky, should costly needs unexpectedly arise. Money for this study will be set aside in the 2024 budget.

Janet Ellsworth talked about the importance of communicating with the whole community. One means of communication is through the Stonebridge website at Stonebridgehomeowners.org. The site contains a

secured list of all of our resident addresses and phone numbers; a list of vendors or contacts recommended by our own residents; and bylaws, rules and regulations. If anyone is interested in helping to maintain the website, please contact Stonebridgehomeowner98@gmail.com.

John Weisman reviewed the replacement of the curbing and roads that have been done this year. He stated that next year BTM will replace the curbing and road on Gleneagles Drive. He hopes to have one roof replaced next year if the budget allows.

He thanked the community and its volunteers for a successful pool season.

Edie Stout talked about people volunteering. She discussed the many opportunities to help, such as the Garden committee, testing the water of the pool during summer, trimming some bushes of which LCS is not responsible, and being a liaison to Pestech or to Shawn Painter (tree removal).

Donna Augustine acknowledged Donna Thomas who has been and continues as liaison for walks and masonry. She also gave credit for the fine work that Peter Rae has performed as liaison to LCS.

There was a question and answer period. Specifically:

1. What could we do about damage to our driveways during the removal of snow? Answer: We continue to have effective dialog with LCS, especially if we see that their machinery may be destructive to our landscape, including driveways.
2. Can we have a dumpster on site for residents to get rid of unwanted items. Answer: It is too costly to rent. In prior years the dumpster was provided for a nominal cost or free.
3. There was a concern about all the clutter in the fire road.
Answer: LCS has been informed and will bring in large equipment to push clutter back and ensure a wide path is maintained on the fire road.

Three people were running for three positions on the HOA Board. The election took place by absentee ballot or in person at the annual HOA meeting.

Congratulations to Donna Augustine and John Wiseman for being reelected to the Board and to Abigail Baird for being elected for the first time to the HOA Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Edie Stout, Recording Secretary

If you prefer to receive your newsletter via e-mail contact: lshekita@gmail.com