

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 28, Issue2

February 1, 2024



Stonebridge Book Club

Book: Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

When: February 15th at 3 PM

Where: 34 Prestwick Court

RSVP: Bronwen Beaudette at 845-471-4068

Reading Ahead: Small Things Like These by Clare Keegan

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.



BIRDS & BEES

On a brilliantly sunny and savagely cold afternoon in mid-January Margery Groten, Diana Salsburg, and I sat daydreaming of Spring and the flowers that will be forthcoming. Snowdrops and Crocus breaking through with promise, followed by Tulips and Daffodils; the joy of watching the Honeybees and Bumble Bees busy about their work, the Butterflies alighting with such grace, delighting us with their variety and beauty.

We all now know the crucial role birds, bees, and butterflies play in our ecosystem, here's a beautiful way for you to invite, encourage and support these amazing creatures.

To borrow from the movie *A Field of Dreams*, "If [we] build it, they will come." We each can add plants to our gardens to invite and encourage pollinators to visit, feed, linger, and mesmerize us.

To attract bees, birds, and butterflies to your garden, choose from the short list below or visit gardening websites specializing in New York gardens for a comprehensive list. I visited both Swanson Nursery and Gardenia to gather information.



The following require full sun to part shade and bloom Summer through Fall, Google them to read specific information.



Helenium

New England Asters; Full sun

Rudbeckia:

Bee Balm

Cirsium Discolor (Field Thistle)

Lobelia Siphicitica (Great Blue Lobelia)

Agastache

Coreopsis Lancelata

Echinacea (Coneflower)

Asclepias Tuberosa (Butterfly Weed)

Lobelia Cardinalis (Cardinal Flower)

Foxglove

Lupinus Perennis (Wild Lupine)

For well drained shade area, Geranium Maculatum (Spotted Cranesbill)

by Rev Mary B. Gregorius

Behind the Scenes- It Takes A Village

**Thank
You!**

Kudos to Mia Henry, Rita Lewis and Chrisine Manning who keep our "Pool" Reading Library in tiptop shape!

**Thank
You!**

**Thank
You!**

Many of you may have noticed that the Prestwick lights were out for a few nights.. Thanks to Joe Garay, John Gallaway and John Weisman (consulting from Florida!) for identifying the issue as a tripped circuit breaker. They reset it and checked the sensor to make sure the lights now come on. Great job Joe, John G and John W!

Condolences



We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Donna Kisslinger. She passed away on January 13, 2024. Donna was born in Peekskill, NY on October 18, 1942. She married her husband, John S. Kisslinger, on August 10, 1968. Donna had a long career in sales support for Metric and Multistandard Components Corp in Hawthorne, NY, where she enjoyed wonderful friendships with her co-workers. Her husband John, their three sons, and six grandchildren survive Donna. She is also survived by her sister. She will indeed be missed by all.



Board Report On LCS

At the beginning of January, our community had over a foot of snow. It was the first real test of snow removal in a couple of years. The reviews were quite mixed regarding our landscaping company's (LCS) removal of the heavy white stuff.

In review, there were many positives and negatives regarding their work. They listened to our previous complaints about using smaller equipment around structures. They hand shoveled close to garage doors. They used heavy equipment for the streets but used equipment allowing more precision in their attention given to driveways and adjoining lawns. They were in constant communication with Gerry Burke, backup to Peter Rae (Pete, LCS liaison, was away). Upon his return, Peter debriefed the LCS supervisor on all concerns.

There were many people who were pleased with the job done. But there were also voiced complaints regarding the timeliness of the snow removal. There seemed to be an acceptable start time to the removal, especially of the streets. But what was questioned was how some driveways were completely ignored, while a neighbor's driveway was being addressed. They seemed to have shifts of people come in that didn't seem well coordinated between each other. They neglected some fire hydrants and mail banks, two items that should be addressed on initial pass through.

One community resident expressed a desire to change vendors. We have a contract with LCS for another year or more. We have had great success with LCS over the years. They have done extra items at no charge to us and have maintained our grounds typically to an outstanding degree. We discussed the idea of going out for a bid nearing the end of our current contract mainly to know we have the best source for our money. We think we have a great professional relationship with LCS and it is one of the few companies able to provide our many needs. But it is also a good business move to validate that through a competitive bid. More will come on that as we near the end of the current contract.

Thank you to all for following the chain of communication in addressing your personal needs. It takes a village!

Minutes of Stonebridge Homeowners Board Meeting



The Stonebridge HOA Board meeting was called to order 1/15/2024 at 3:00pm at 92 Turnberry Court. The following members were present: Donna Augustine, President; Martin Charwat, Vice President; Janet Ellsworth, Corresponding Secretary; Steve Bartlett, Treasurer; Abigail Baird, Recording Secretary. Both John Wiseman, Member at Large, and Brenda Berry, Associate Treasurer attended via Zoom.

Donna Augustine moved to accept the December meeting minutes, Martin Charwat seconded.

Went into closed executive section 3:07pm Executive session ended at 3:23pm Opened regular session at 3:25pm

Steve Bartlett presented December's Treasurer's report. Income for the month was \$48,168.27. Regular recurring expenditures for December included: \$15,898.94 to LCS for landscaping and snow removal; \$1,154.00 to Central Hudson for electricity and gas; \$8.20 to Verizon for telephone; \$2,300.95 to Royal Carting for refuse; \$6,782.01 to Traveler's for installment payments of site insurance; \$213.22 to City of Poughkeepsie for water/sewer. Additional expenses included: \$364.81 to Shawn Painter for tree removal behind unit #64; \$5,406.25 to Flock Safety for security systems annual payment. Our current balances are \$51,002.00 in Cash and \$149,001.05 in Savings and Certificates of Deposit for a total of \$200,003.05. Additionally, Steve reported that our 2023 operations resulted in a deficit of \$8,500.49 out of a total budget of \$566,225.00. The shortfall was covered by our reserves. Martin Charwat made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Janet Ellsworth. Approved.

Treasurer's report, other notes: Commenting on our 2024 budget, Gas and Electric, paid in monthly budget payments has increased 5% and an increase of 5% in property insurance is anticipated. A study of our Reserve requirements will be initiated, and a review of our insurance service costs will investigate alternative suppliers. No roof replacements, or streetlight improvements are budgeted.

The board reviewed the status of the December Action Items presented by Janet Ellsworth.

Janet to follow up with Joe Garay about the tree limbs overhanging the pond

We are on BTM's calendar for Gleneagles Ct. roadway and curb replacement in March or April, depending on the weather. Need to think about our first planning/organization meeting with BTM – with the goal of getting them to begin work in March.

Brenda will pursue Reserve study and Insurance RFPs late in Q1 or early Q2

There was an inquiry about expanding security surveillance with Flock. It was relayed that the current system does not cover foot traffic, so it was recommended that individuals need to be responsible for using personal security/surveillance

We discussed going out for a competitive bid for landscaping and snow removal, as concerns were raised about LCS's thoroughness regarding snow removal following the two storms in early January (specifically at the end of driveways and mailboxes). Peter Rae will continue to facilitate our relationship with LCS.

Next meeting: February 13, 2024 at 3:00pm at 88 Turnberry Court.

Donna Augustine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:16pm. Martin Charwat seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Abigail Baird

Recording Secretary

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