

Hager Homestead Newsletter

December 2021

Building the first 55+ cohousing community in New England



While we are, alas, battening down for another surge of coronavirus ...in this newsletter we will look back with gratitude at the things some of us did during the precious, few months between our last booster shot and the appearance of the Omicron variant.

Of course, what we are most thankful is the start of construction for Hager Homestead! So, let's look on the bright side: we are past the winter Solstice, the days are getting longer, and as the late, great, Mort Sahl said: The Future Lies Ahead!

Table of Contents

- **Construction has Begun!**
- **"Cohousing Changed My Life": Personal Stories from our Members**
- **An Evening at Not Your Average Joes!**
- **Littleton is Aight for the Holidays**

- Tune Into Cohousing Podcasts

Construction Has Begun!



At the end of November, the site of our future home was enclosed by a hurricane fence. In early December, the wing that was formerly a dentist's office, was knocked down. Eventually, in its place, will be our multi-family building. With any with luck, and our developer's determination, construction will continue through the winter. Below: the architect's rendering of the finished product.



"Cohousing Changed My Life..."

Even Before I Moved In!"

Personal stories by members of the future Hager Homestead

Diane: How has cohousing changed my life? I have all these friends now -- *real* friends!

A few years ago I sold the house where I raised my family; I moved; most friends eventually fell away. In the four years I've been in this community, I've found new friends. As a community, we've worked together, had fun, weathered some really hard times -- and we've come through them all knowing each other better.

I know my future cohousing neighbors 'have my back' - and we haven't even moved in yet!



Diane during a fun moment at a work meeting (before the pandemic).

A Dinner at "Not Your Average Joe's" (in Acton)



On Wednesday, December 15--just before the Omicron Variant slammed Massachusetts--seven of our cohousing members met for dinner at the restaurant Not Your Average Joes in Acton. What a pleasure! Real people! Food we didn't have to cook ourselves! Dishes we didn't have to wash! The restaurant seats all diners a safe distance from each other...and the obliging servers will even take your picture.

Dressed for the Holidays

The Town of Littleton...
as well as Mayhew, one of our members



Part of the fun of any holiday -- Christmas, Easter, Halloween, or the 4th of July -- is hanging the decorations. The gazebo in Fay Park on Foster Street in Littleton looked particularly charming one recent afternoon as it was being frosted by snow.

A house just around the corner from Fay Park had dazzling lights ...on everything -- the house, the barn, even the on the treehouse in the back yard. Spectacular!



Mayhew Dressed for

Tea at the Boston Public Library

A beaming Mayhew sits before a tiered tray of pastries at the Boston Public Library's Holiday Tea, which is held in the Library's elegant Courtyard Map Room. He was decked out in his finest (vest & bow tie!) for the first time since the pandemic began. Victoria, his partner and wife, wore her pearls!



Mayhew: "Hurry up and take the photo, so I can fill my empty plate!"

Inspiration & Education: Cohousing Podcasts

*...because you don't always have to read about
cohousing...*



We sampled these podcasts from the app on our Mac -- get yours wherever you get your own podcasts.

Tell Me More About Cohousing presented by Lynn Morstead & Kelli Soika of Cohousing Houston, has 44 Episodes, such as: “Cohousers Celebrate So Much More Than the Rest of Us!”, “Community and Mental Health”, and “Doing Work Together in Cohousing”.

cohousingtruthblog, by CJ (a former dj) has just nine episodes. She talks about or interviews those who help develop cohousing communities, and who live in different kinds of communities. In her actual blog, **cohousingtruthblog.com**, CJ digs into some of the problems of cohousing. “Being Right is So Wrong” reflects on how to forgive people in the community after a disagreement.

The podcast **On the Green Fence**, presented by Neil King, has at least one cohousing episode: Co-housing: a Green Alternative to the Family Home?

In **The FI Show** podcast, Cody Berman and Justin Taylor, discuss financial independence. In the episode, **Intentional Living and Cohousing Communities**, they interview a member of Sunnyside Village Cohousing in Washington, Lauren Tang, the host of her own podcast.

Tour Our Site!

Visit Hagerhomestead.org and scroll to the bottom of the '[About Our Project](#)' page for a video tour of our future home



Behind Hager Homestead: The Meadow in December

"Standing quite alone, far in the forest, while the wind is shaking down snow from the trees, and leaving the only human tracks behind us, we find our reflections of a richer variety than the life of cities."—Henry David Thoreau: "[A Winter Walk](#)"

Hager Homestead, King Street, Littleton, MA

[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage preferences](#)