

Hager Homestead Newsletter March 2023

Building the first 55+ cohousing community in New England



Announcing:

Info Session: Sunday March 19, 6-7 pm EDT

Find out About the Project!

Are you curious about the progress of the project? Now is a great time to get involved and discover if cohousing at Hager Homestead is a fit for you.

The community is growing, construction is underway and there are only a few homes left to reserve. Join the info session for news about available homes and prices.

We're proud to be a group of people who share so many values: communication, cooperation, learning, family, friendship, organic gardens, chickens and having FUN!

We may be getting on in years, (are we? really?) which means more than ever, we want to hang out with friends and neighbors -- just to watch a movie together and not have to drive home! That's a little bit of what cohousing is all about, and we invite you to learn more!

[Join this Zoom event and meet some of our members](#)

Learn More about Hager Homestead

Sunday, March 19, 2023 from 6-7 pm EDT

Hear about plans, the timeline,
and learn more about cohousing.

[Click to Register](#)



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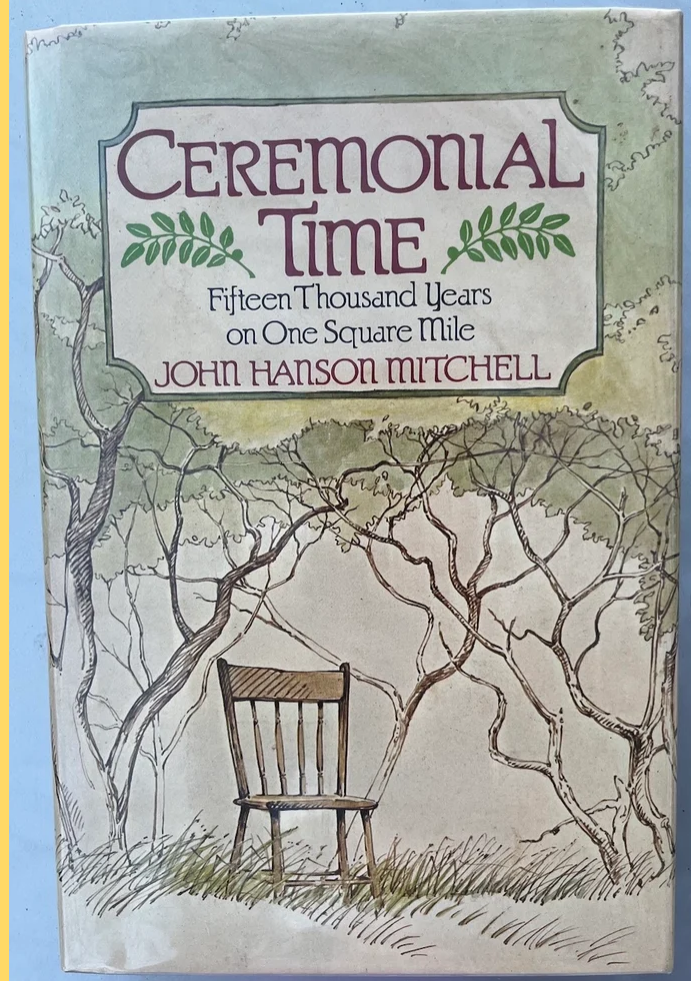


[Construction Update](#)



We have a roof on the multi-family building!!

Book Group:
Ceremonial Time - John Hanson Mitchell



John Hanson Mitchell founded and edited the award-winning journal, Sanctuary, published by the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

"Ceremonial Time: Fifteen Thousand Years on One Square Mile" by John Hanson Mitchell was the first book our Hager Homestead book group read. The land that Mitchell writes about is very close to our land, so his insights also apply to our property. The concept of "ceremonial time" comes from the Native American belief that, when a ceremony is performed, the participants can "see" back into the past thousands of years as well as the present and future of their land. Native tribe members still live in this area and Mitchell consulted with those he met about this concept.

Mitchell studied the area back into the ice age, and how the glaciers formed the land as they receded. It was all fascinating for us because we will be living on the land nearby. We look forward to "seeing" what we can of the past, present and future.

A bit about the property: our project lies on 3 acres of a 15 acre site, and we are preserving most of it with a conservation restriction. Beaver Brook, which Hansen writes about, runs through it, and our pond is surrounded by wetlands. This land is home to many birds, aquatic creatures and mammals. Since many of us are nature-lovers we hope to catch sight of all of this wildlife. Several us have dogs that we will love walking in the nearby woods. Our cats, of course, will stay inside to protect them -- as well as the birds.

-- Frieda Gillespie --

History of Middlesex Senior Cohousing:

The Birth of Hager Homestead

Where did we come from? How did we get here?



The story begins in 2016, in the home of Victoria Thatcher and husband Mayhew Seavey (above). They were worried about how – and where – they would live as they aged. When Victoria found Charles Durrett’s book *The Senior Cohousing Handbook*, she contacted Durrett, who connected Victoria with other senior cohousing groups.

May, 2016: The couple gave their first Info Session at a nearby library. To their astonishment, 80 people showed up, but only a few signed up.

January 2017: They finally attracted a small group that met regularly. But when they realized that land in Metro Boston was too costly for the project, members left. By spring, the couple was ready to give up.

June 2017: A turning point: Victoria and Mayhew started working with consultant, Katie McCamant, who mentors cohousing communities.

Just as important: they decided market in the Boston suburbs.

June 2018: With McCamant's help, they partnered with Matt Blackham, a respected local developer.

September 2018: Their presentations in suburban communities, where people were enthusiastic, grew their group from 5 individuals to 20! And the more Info Sessions they gave, the more people joined.

April 2019: Ten months after the search for land began, the community made an offer on a property in Littleton, a community west of Boston.

September, 2019: They signed a Purchase and Sale Agreement. The search for an architect followed, as well as workshops to plan the space. Hearings began with the Littleton Planning Board.

Jan 18, 2021: The Town of Littleton granted permits for our project!

November 2021: We break ground!

Today: Hager Homestead has 16 equity members, a number of Explorers, and an active construction site.

Profile of a Cohousing Community: Quimper Village

Port Townsend, WA



QUIMPER VILLAGE

A 55+ Cohousing Community

The First Senior Cohousing Community in Port Townsend, WA



Quimper Village was an inspiration for the founders of Middlesex Senior Cohousing (its name before we became Hager Homestead). Planning began in 2014, and the 28 unit community was completed in 2017. It's for 55+ residents, just like Hager Homestead. If you want to read more, follow the link to this recent story in [Business Insider](#).

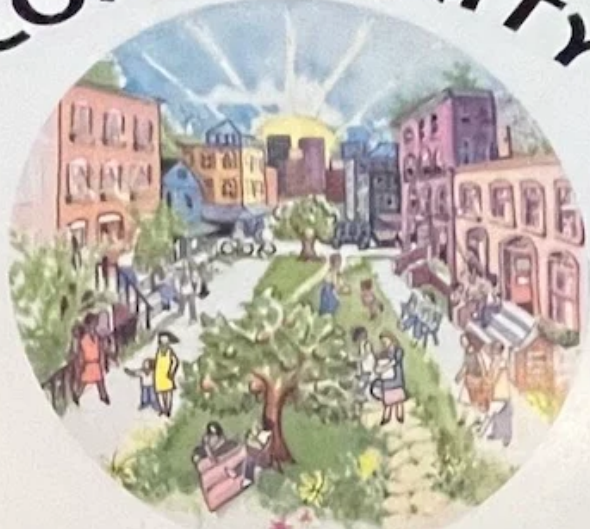
Inspiration: How to Build Community

Turn off your TV! Greet People!

A few days ago, after visiting the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, a couple of our members went around the corner to dine in a great vegetarian restaurant, Life Alive Organic Cafe. Inside they saw this inspirational poster, "How to Build Community", which applies to everyone, everywhere!



HOW TO BUILD COMMUNITY



TURN OFF YOUR TV 📺 LEAVE YOUR HOUSE
KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS
LOOK UP WHEN YOU ARE WALKING
GREET PEOPLE 🍃 SIT ON YOUR STOOP
PLANT FLOWERS
USE YOUR LIBRARY 📖 PLAY TOGETHER
BUY FROM LOCAL MERCHANTS
SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE
HELP A LOST DOG 🐕
TAKE CHILDREN TO THE PARK
GARDEN TOGETHER 🪄
SUPPORT NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS
FIX IT EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T BREAK IT
HAVE POT LUCKS 🍷 HONOR ELDERS
PICK UP LITTER 🗑️ READ STORIES ALOUD
DANCE IN THE STREET
TALK TO THE MAIL CARRIER
LISTEN TO THE BIRDS 🐦 PUT UP A SWING
HELP CARRY SOMETHING HEAVY
BARTER FOR YOUR GOODS
START A TRADITION 🍷 ASK A QUESTION
HIRE YOUNG PEOPLE FOR ODD JOBS
ORGANIZE A BLOCK PARTY
BAKE EXTRA AND SHARE
ASK FOR HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT
OPEN YOUR SHADES 🌞 SING TOGETHER
SHARE YOUR SKILLS
TAKE BACK THE NIGHT
TURN UP THE MUSIC
TURN DOWN THE MUSIC
SMILE BEFORE YOU REACT TO ANGER

[Visit our Facebook Page](#)

...to see more about what we're up to



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