

9.6.98

Most Commonly Asked Questions About Ten Stones

How long has Ten Stones been in existence?

Ted Montgomery, architect and resident, conceived the first iteration of the Ten Stones Community as his senior thesis project in 1972. After years of discussion with other interested families and many site visits, this site was purchased in 1992. The first home was constructed in 1993, and the last family moved in January 1998.

Do you share a religion or philosophy?

No. We are a group of people striving to create a genuinely nurturing sense of community. By choosing to be part of this community, we commit ourselves to building an unusually caring and friendly environment. Ten Stones is a place for families (two current families include three generations in residence) and single people who wish to move beyond the anonymity of suburban housing developments. Participation in the community involves cooperation and partnership; at the same time, all the residents agree that privacy is important as well, and at Ten Stones we aim to achieve a balance between group space and personal space.

What is the legal organization of the community?

All residents of Ten Stones are members of the Ten Stones Village Association, a non-profit, nearly conventional condominium association. The Association's budget is derived from monthly dues paid by each household, from which infrastructure and maintenance costs of the 88 acres of common land are drawn.

How are decisions made at Ten Stones?

Monthly business meetings are held for the entire community, and committees meet as needed in the interim. We strive to make decisions by consensus, and to date no votes have been required to break an impasse. Much of the daily work of building and sustaining the community is done informally.

How is Ten Stones different than the average American neighborhood?

Because we have gathered here with the intention of becoming close friends, we tend to share more, both practically and personally, than most neighbors do. Some of us share major appliances like washers and dryers, vacuum cleaners, weed whackers and vehicles. We frequently care for each other's children. We share meals in small groups and occasionally as a whole community. We have celebrations to mark holidays and major events in people's lives. We grow and buy food together, supporting local farms and businesses whenever possible. We look after each other's homes, pets, and plants when residents are away.

Do you or will you have any common buildings?

Currently we have a tractor shed that was designed by our architect-in-residence Ted Montgomery. Many households contributed surplus building materials from their own homes for its construction. Our site plan includes a Common House that may provide a dining area for common meals, a children's room, library and/or yoga and meditation room. These plans are in the early stages of development.

How does the Ten Stones Community serve the larger community?

Members of Ten Stones serve on the Charlotte Conservation Commission, the Shelburne Rescue Squad, Charlotte's wildlife tracking group, the boards of Spectrum Youth Services and the Findhorn Foundation, and various other civic and environmental organizations. In addition, Ten Stones has committed a portion of its property to the Vermont Land Trust, helping to preserve Vermont's rural landscape. Our community garden draws subscribers from outside the Ten Stones community and our constructed wetland, an innovative approach to wastewater treatment, provides a model for other neighborhoods searching for a beautiful and functional alternative to standard septic systems. Finally, the Ten Stones Community assists others, from individuals and families to college groups and other intentional communities, in learning to build community for themselves.

Are there any lots available at Ten Stones?

Ten Stones is currently full. We do maintain a list of interested families, in the event of expansion or a current family moving away. To place your name on this list, call Edorah Frazer at 425-4937.