



# GREAT HAWK OWNERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

November 2010



www.greathawk.org

## Board of Directors

Office	Name	Term Ends
President	Mark Kassop	2011
Vice President	Norm Christiansen	2011
Treasurer	Michael Schlenker	2011
Secretary	Barbara Shenton	2012
Other	Paul Gillis	2012
Other	Deanna Campbell	2011
Other	Nick King	2012

The Board of Directors elected officers following the Annual Meeting.

## Committees

Committee	Chairpersons in <b>Bold</b>
Sewer	<b>Paul Gillis</b> Frank Campbell Norm Christiansen
Treasurer	<b>Michael Schlenker</b>
Water	<b>Nick King</b>
Architectural Review Board	<b>Mark Kassop</b> Deanna Campbell Barbara Shenton
Tennis	<b>Deanna Campbell</b> Scott Lee
Common Land	<b>Norm Christiansen</b> Michael Schlenker
Trails	<b>Mark Kassop</b>

## GHOA General Information

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Website	www.greathawk.org
Webmaster	Norm Christiansen

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## Message from GHOA President Mark Kassop

I want to thank the Board and the membership for re-electing me as your President for the fourth consecutive year! I have rented and owned at Hawk since the early 1980s and this area has always been an oasis for me and many of you from the hectic and troubled world in which we live. To be entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining and improving our little part of the world is quite an honor and I appreciate your support.

During my first three years on the Board, I have had the opportunity to observe first-hand the hard, time consuming, loving work that my fellow Board members do for our community. The on-going beauty of our community and the fact that it works so well are a continual testament to the efforts made by Deanna Campbell, Norm Christiansen, Paul Gillis, Nick King, Barbara Shenton and Michael Schlenker. When you have the opportunity, please thank them personally for their efforts for all of us!

Living at Great Hawk gives us options: some of us choose to enjoy the privacy that is afforded by our "Vermont Mountain Hideaway," some of us choose to engage in a rich social life with our

mountain neighbors and the activities available in our vibrant "downtown" community (parades, fairs, concerts, restaurants, lectures, shopping, hiking, biking, skiing, etc.), and some of us choose to combine these assets based upon the season or our life circumstances. As Board members and as members of the community, it is our job to ensure that the options that are available to us are protected for current and future residents.

Please help us to protect the clean, peaceful, and beautiful wooded environment in which we live by adhering to our covenants and by-laws (available on our website <http://www.greathawk.org>), and become an active member of our community. Take advantage of all that Great Hawk and Rochester have to offer, but also "give back" whenever you can. One of the wonderful characteristics of Vermont is the spirit of volunteerism and we hope that you will join us in caring for this area that is so dear to all of us.

If at any time, you need the assistance of the Board or if you have suggestions or comments, please contact me at **DrMSK47@yahoo.com**. In the meantime, ENJOY!

*Within the last year, Great Hawk has lost the services of three long time and very important Board members, who have decided to retire from their numerous positions: Val Zemelman (not pictured), Erik Nordin and Marcia Holroyd. Erik and Marcia are seen at right sitting in the Adirondack chairs given to them with thanks by the community. The chairs will become a permanent fixture at our pond, with a view of the mountains that they love so much!*



Photo: B. Shenton



## Dogs @ Great Hawk:

Great Hawk is dog-friendly! Almost any day of the year and in almost any weather condition, you can see one or more dog owners walking their trusty companions along our roads or trails. However, as dog owners, we have certain responsibilities. We all need to follow the policies outlined in the community's by-laws and the Rochester town ordinances. Dogs may not freely roam the community unsupervised and they may not create a disturbance by barking for extended periods of time. For the safety of our residents and the safety of your pet, please keep your dog on a leash or closely supervised under strict voice control by the owner. We strive to keep our community quiet and a safe place to peacefully walk and drive. As we approach the winter months, please make sure that your dog is not running loose after snow storms, when they may dangerously interfere with the work of snow removing vehicles that have very limited ability to stop or veer on snowy roads. For the sake of all the drivers on the road and your pet, please be very careful! Thank you!

## Driving @ Great Hawk:



We have had a number of residents understandably complain about drivers at Great Hawk. The town speed limit for dirt roads is 30 mph and you will see a sign to that effect on Austin Hill Road just after you enter the community. However, we have special concerns at Great Hawk. We have steep, narrow, winding roads that are difficult to brake on during the winter or when going downhill during the summer. We have lots of residents who walk along the road during all seasons of the year, and we have a growing number of children, pets and legally deaf individuals using the roads, as well. Naturally, we have the playground, the tennis courts and the pond and driving in that area requires a particularly watchful set of eyes. Please drive slowly through Great Hawk and be vigilant of others using the road and

move to the right when approaching other cars! We are working with the town to obtain more signage and we will utilize every opportunity to alert contractors and others who use our roads about driving slowly. Thank you!

## Architectural Review Board:

When we purchase a house at Great Hawk, we agree to abide by the By-laws and Covenants that legally govern behavior in our community. In short, any modifications that you make to the outside of your house (tree cutting, additions, painting, roofing, etc.) MUST be approved by the ARB before work commences. ARB work forms and instructions can be found on the Great Hawk website. And the ARB members respond quickly to your requests to assist in your construction plans. Essentially, we are trying to maintain the style and character of the community and will, generally, approve any plans that work toward these goals.



## Cooperative Water Systems (CWS): Nick King

All homeowners are encouraged to consult the Cooperative Water Systems section of the GHOA website (<http://www.greathawk.org/>) for an overview of the CWS and a full listing of homeowner responsibilities. Homeowners are responsible for keeping all water-related equipment within their home and on their property in good working order, and for ensuring that property improvements do not adversely impact the CWS. While the GHOA annually tests each well for water quality, this does not guarantee that the water in each home is drinkable, since additional contamination can occur within the home. Homeowners are encouraged to regularly test their own water, particularly after long periods in which the home is unoccupied. The GHOA will not reimburse for private water tests. In

addition, we strongly recommend that all homeowners have **at least five gallons of fresh water** stored at their home at all times, in case of a problem with the water system or an extended power outage (which will shut off the well pump).

## Sewers: Frank Campbell

Reminder: Septic tanks pumped in 2006 in the Great Hawk Sector, Top of the Mountain and private systems throughout the Colony are due for pumping and inspection in 2011. Septic tanks pumped in 2008, in the Martin/Tarbett Sector are due for pumping and inspection in 2011. Vermont state requires adherence to these rules, whether the home is used full-time or part-time, and looks to the GHOA sewer system to see that pumping and inspections are carried out. Names of septic tank pumping companies are available from the office. Please e-mail me your questions at [cfl4us@aol.com](mailto:cfl4us@aol.com).

## Sewers: Paul Gillis

It's been a very productive year at Great Hawk in regard to the Sewers. First and foremost; on May 28<sup>th</sup> 2010 GHOA's board adopted a new policy that effectively resolves our capacity issue with the Great Hawk Leach Field. As the policy is written it clearly identifies 4 lots that will be able to connect to the system in the future and outlines a procedure for a raffle for the last remaining spot available. After years of working on this problem and exploring every avenue for a solution the new policy is the only logical and practical way to protect the field from being over subscribed and put at risk of failure. You should have already received a copy of the policy if you are connected to the Great Hawk Waste Water Collection System or own one of the lots affected by this policy. Please feel free to contact me if you would like a copy of the policy and haven't already received one.

Another major threat to Great Hawk's leach fields were all the 30 year

**VISIT [www.greathawk.org](http://www.greathawk.org)**  
for answers to questions,  
ARB forms & more



**GREAT HAWK OWNERS' ASSOCIATION 42<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**Saturday, August 21, 2010 • Pierce Hall Community Center, Rochester, Vermont**

**Call to Order** - GHOA President Mark Kassop called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM and welcomed 55 owners and their family members to the 42nd meeting of our association. He summarized the goals of the meeting, trying to briefly bring owners up to date on various actions and activities in the community. Mark then had the GHOA Board introduce themselves and had all homeowners present in the audience briefly introduce themselves as well. He then talked about Pierce Hall, as a work in progress, which we are happy to support, as it works towards completion, to become a community center for the area. It is also one of the local organizations Great Hawk Owners Association supported this past fiscal year. He said GHOA would continue to make small donations of \$200 to five local groups each year because we think that they are worthy of our support and because we want to quietly let the community know that we are a part of the town. The Board reviews our contributions each year and currently donates to Pierce Hall, the Rochester Library, the Valley Rescue Squad, the Rochester Fire Department, and the local food shelf. Next Mark introduced homeowner Dick Weden to present a tribute to Tom Paino, who passed away earlier this year. These remarks from Dick and Suzanne Sorensen follow this meeting report.

**Approval of 2009 Annual GHOA Meeting Minutes** - were moved and seconded. There was a unanimous vote by members present to accept the minutes as published.

The election of three Board Members was held live, as we did not have an unanimous vote by proxy. It was moved and accepted to vote by a show of hands. The three nominees, Barbara Shenton, Nick King and Paul Gillis, were moved to be nominated and elected to fill their 2 year terms.

#### **Officer and Committee Reports**

**Cooperative Water System** – Nick King, after thanking past water chair, Val Zemelman, presented a report, which follows this meeting report.

**Common Lands** – Norm Christiansen reported that there were no big events this year (storms, other unforeseen problems) permitting expenses to keep within budget. He went on to report that this year's chip off was perhaps the most successful in Great Hawk history, thanks to a rented machine that didn't break down and there were no complaints. Chip offs will be every other year and the next one will be in 2012. Moving onto the pond, Norm reported that the floating deck in the pond was repaired with synthetic board and a new ladder was attached at the beginning of the season. Sand was added to the paved bottom in the shallow swimming area. The trout seem healthy and are getting bigger. It has been a good year for the pond's water with no algae or surface scum problems, though they usually happen around this time of year. Vandals went fishing then ripped off the No Fishing signs and threw them into the woods. These signs have been remounted more securely. The community has a new playground set and bench thanks to the generosity of one of our members and other members who augmented the

initial donation. The field next to the playground and tennis courts has proven to be difficult to mow in spots. Therefore, we will not mow these problem spots in future years and it will be permitted to revert to its natural state as a wetland. Norm then turned the discussion of trails onto Mark.

**Hiking Trails** – Mark spoke about the new loop trail he created south of the tennis courts and asked members to enjoy it in the summer, as it is not as wet as the other trail he maintains near the pond. A map of the trails has been updated to show this trail. Owners present could get one at the front table or it could be obtained from the GHOA website or by contacting the GHOA office.

**Architectural Review Board (ARB)** – Mark then changed hats to be the chair of the ARB and spoke about the request of the ARB that any exterior work be filed with the board for quick review. Anything from repainting, re-roofing, vista cutting, etc. needs to be submitted. There are some nice additions that have happened in the last year, but it has meant large equipment on our roads. Mark requested that owners please ask their contractors to be aware that our roads are narrow and take care where they park flatbeds and equipment for extended periods. Mark also mentioned the recent planting work of one owner – he chose to plant two apple trees for each tree he had removed for a vista cut. The apple trees will not require vista cuts as they only grow to 20 feet and will encourage wildlife to visit his property.

**Tennis** - Deanna Campbell reported it has been a quiet year. The fill work has been holding well and she has reduced the costs involved with mowing the land around the courts. An owner proposed a general tennis club fund instead of the current membership set up, which does not include all owners in the yearly fees collected. Deanna said she would take the matter up with the Board to figure out the best route to manage the fund and keep it growing for the eventual need of major work. The website has been updated to include a tennis blog to find people to play with and we hope members will take advantage of this site.

**Upper Sparrow Hawk Road** (private road) – Frank Campbell reported that the Upper Sparrow Hawk Road owners had a meeting earlier today. Their meeting started with a discussion about the need for signage warning about walkers and dogs. They asked the Board what would need to be done and it was determined that they maintain a private road and that they have the right to put up a sign. For the rest of the community, the roads are town roads and the Board will work with the town office to find out about getting additional signage. Many owners present agreed that the speed limit for our roads needs more assistance than the one 30 MPH sign on Austin Hill Road and we need to work with the constant stream of contractors to also abide by the speed limit. Frank then put his hat on as a member of the Sewer Committee in charge of reporting septic tank maintenance to the state. He sends out a letter each year to members to have their tanks cleaned on a regular basis. He thanks owners for keeping up to date and

cooperative so that he can keep records and reports current and accurate.

**GHOA Website** – Norm Christiansen in his other hat as webmaster, has changed the GHOA website to be a more content managed system with blogs and would welcome more participation and suggestions from members. More photos, history and other content are welcome. The membership discussed using social networking sites, like Facebook, but after some debate, will hold off on having them at this time in connection with the community.

**Secretary's Report** – Barbara Shenton reported that the office is open on Wednesday mornings for members to contact Office Manager Caroline Meagher to aid them with needs and questions and to use the website to find answers as well. The fall newsletter, which will contain the annual meeting minutes, will be e-mailed out to as many of the owners as possible. Barbara asked to please let the office know your e-mail address so we can keep our postage costs down.

**Treasurer's Report** – The Report was approved as presented to owners in the 2010 proxy mailing, after GHOA Treasurer Michael Schlenker discussed some of the expense areas (wastewater policy legal expenses, playground). The assessment will go up \$200 this year to help replenish the reserve fund and cover the next fiscal year's expenses.

**Sewer System** – Paul Gillis, who is serving his 3rd term as Sewer Chair, presented the report that follows this meeting report. When he got to the explanation of the remaining reserve connections though, questions from a homeowner,

who has a lot involved with this issue, stopped the presentation. It was clear that his questions could not be answered during the general meeting, so it was agreed that he would meet with the Board at a later time. Paul then wanted to move onto a vote from the membership regarding the policy for the replacement of failed (onsite) systems, but because the length of the meeting was exceeding usual time limits, it was motioned to table the vote until next year's meeting, as there was no urgency to have this vote taken in 2010.

**Membership vote on Proposal for FY 2011 Budget** - The budget, including 2010-2011 assessments, was approved by voice vote of members present.

**New Business** - Mark closed by explaining the tax on our common land, which was placed on them for the first time in 40 years by the town. It makes up 1/4 of the additional costs in our 2010 assessment. The Board is working with our lawyers to have the taxes repealed and hopefully we will be able to have this year's taxes refunded as well. The lawyers feel there are state statutes that clearly indicate that we should not be paying taxes on the common land.

Mark also noted that the presentation of the Adirondack chairs with plaques thanking Erik Nordin and Marcia Holroyd would be made at the barbeque and asked other members to join us in thanking them for their years of service.

**Meeting Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm. Members present then moved onto the Pumpkin Patch for the barbeque reception.

## **Annual Report on GHOA Cooperative Water System for GHOA Meeting, August 21, 2010**

**By Nick King - CWS Chair**

Overview of the GHOA CWS: The GHOA water system consists of 28 sub-systems, which supply water to a total of 67 homes. Between one and four homes are connected to each sub-system, which includes one well equipped with a submersible pump, a pressure tank (to reduce variations in water pressure), electrical switches controlling pressure in the system, and pipes supplying water to the homes. If several homes belong to one sub-system, the well is connected directly to a “control house,” which supplies water to the rest of the homes in parallel, through an independent valve called a “curb-stop.”

The current setup is the result of improvements to the original CWS, which was built in the 1970s. These improvements, undertaken by my illustrious predecessor, Val Zemelman, have reduced the number of homes connected to each well, shortened water lines, and thus reduced the amount and cost of maintenance. Nevertheless, the CWS is a complicated system that requires considerable annual maintenance.

To ensure that the water is safe to drink, the GHOA annually tests each sub-system for coliform, a bacterial indicator of the sanitary quality of water. A water sample is taken from one home on each sub-system, usually the control house, to test the quality of water from the well. It is sent to a private laboratory for testing. If a sample tests positive for total coliform bacteria, all homeowners on the sub-system are immediately notified, the well is chlorinated, and after chlorination the sub-system is resampled to ensure that the water is clean.

**Homeowner Responsibilities:** The GHOA is responsible for ensuring that the water entering homes is safe to drink, and for maintenance of all equipment delivering water from the well to the homes. Homeowners have three sets of responsibilities.

First, homeowners are responsible for keeping all water-related equipment within their home and on their property in good working order. A leaking pipe or faucet, or a running toilet, can put significant strain on a sub-system pump, eventually causing it to burn out and require replacing, which is extremely costly. In exceptional cases, the GHOA reserves the right to turn off water to a house if repairs are not performed in a timely manner.

Second, homeowners are responsible for ensuring that property improvements do not adversely impact the CWS. Maps of the CWS and all individual sub-systems, as well as original sketches of the water lines within most properties, are maintained by the GHOA and are available in the GHOA office. Homeowners and/or contractors should consult these maps before any digging is performed.

Finally, although we annually test each well for water quality, this does not guarantee that the water in each home is drinkable, since additional contamination can occur within the home. Homeowners are encouraged to regularly test their own water, particularly after long periods in which the home is unoccupied. The GHOA will not reimburse for private water tests.

**FY 2009-10 Results:** In the preceding FY, we spent \$2973.15 on electricity, \$17,633.78 on maintenance and repairs and \$345.94 on sampling and other expenses. This represents a total of \$20,982.87 or approximately \$313 per home, slightly higher than the annual dues of \$300 per home. Our current balance of \$11,276.50 should be sufficient to hold us until 2010-11 dues arrive. The annual dues will remain \$300 per home.

No major projects are planned for FY 2010-11, though I am exploring the possibility of reconfiguring the electricity setup to reduce CVPS account charges.

**Annual Report on GHOA Waste Water System for GHOA Meeting, August 21, 2010**  
**By Paul Gillis -Chair**

Great Hawk currently has 30 homes that are connected to one of three collection systems; the Mountain top system, Great Hawk system and Martin Tarbett system. In a nut shell, my job is to prudently manage the Waste Water systems for the benefit of the whole Great Hawk community and to fulfill our community's requirements pertaining to the Waste Water Permits that regulates our system. Thanks to Board and Committee members Frank Campbell, Michael Schlenker, Norm Christiansen, and Mark Kassop for helping in these goals.

The original plans for the community collection system included two leach fields for the Great hawk system to meet the needs of 52 homes, but only half of planned field was built. The area for the second leach field is now undevelopable as it is a wetland and a road has been built through the area. We have been working on the capacity issue for 3.5 years and it has been a long journey, taking us down many different paths, only to find dead ends.

We spent our first year having a legal analysis of our governing documents done and we checked all of the deeds in our community to get a grasp of the size of the problem. We also notified the community of the issue.

The 2nd year we hired a hydrogeologist and an engineer to study the Great Hawk and Martin Tarbett leach fields to determine if there was any additional capacity in either field. We did an occupancy survey of the 30 homes connected to those fields to examine the usage patterns of our community. Unfortunately they determined that there was no additional capacity in either field other than what they were designed to handle. We also examined the large tracks of common land in our community to ascertain whether there was a possible alternate location for a leach field, which there isn't.

This past year we explored the route of taking our problem to the Vermont courts allowing them to decide what our course of action should be, but that option would have taken years until a conclusion would be made and the legal fees would have been too expensive. We also examined each of the 13 lots with our engineer to see if a private onsite system was a possibility for any of the lots. Unfortunately we believe only one lot is suitable for such a system.

We asked our hydrogeologist and engineer for "any possible solution that they could think of" and their response was a sand filtration system. This system, if approved by the State, could possibly increase the capacity by 13 lots and would cost anywhere from \$225K to \$300K. The problem with this solution is that it isn't economically feasible. We can't distribute the cost among the whole community, only to those who would benefit from it, which would be only 34 homes. And we could see homeowners who have been connected and paying to maintain the system for years having an issue being assessed to expand capacity for 13 lots that may or may not be developed.

We implemented another plan to purchase and merge lots in an attempt to acquire and eliminate all the additional participation agreements that GHOA couldn't honor. That was the attempt of our February letter. After making follow up phone calls and having several conversations with property owners, we realized that route wasn't working either. We needed everyone's cooperation to eliminate all outstanding participation agreements and we just couldn't achieve that goal.

Finally, our only and last option was to write the policy that addressed the whole community and how the remaining 5 spots available on the system would be allocated and why.

It's GHOA's obligation to protect the leach field and wastewater disposal in the community as a whole. The newly adopted sewer policy addresses these concerns by eliminating the threat of having the GH systems over-subscribed.

We had to go through every step of the process to get to the point of writing the policy. Had we made a decree 3 years ago saying no more connections to the system that would have been a premature course of action but after exploring every other option, including offering to purchase and merge lots to solve the issue and still not getting to a solution, the policy is the only option we have to protect the leach field. It's been a very long and expensive journey, but it's finally behind us.

The abridged version of the policy is basically no additional lots will be allowed to connect to the Great Hawk leach field except for lots 100, 85 and 101 which have received letters from GHOA's board in the past saying that they can connect to the leach field. Lot 74 has a private onsite system and a participation agreement so we allowed that lot to keep their right to connect as a back-up in the event that the current on site system failed and couldn't be replaced.

We have room for one additional lot to connect. Our attorney devised a procedure for a lottery for the right to connect. When a lot owner who is qualified to participate in the lottery is interested in developing their property, they will have to submit a request for a lottery and then GHOA will notify all lot owners who are qualified to participate in the lottery, who then in-turn would express their written interest in participation in the lottery (all within very specific periods of time.) Then GHOA will arrange to have a non-Hawk related individual oversee the lottery. The winner will have to begin and complete construction within a specific period of time; if they don't conform to the time line, they lose their right to connect to the system. Then the whole process could start over.

Lot owners can also have the option of hiring their own engineer to study their lot to determine if it could support an on site system.

## Tom Paino Memorial - Great Hawk Owner's Association Meeting Saturday, August 21, 2010

*The GHOA Board thanks the Wedens and Sorensens for coordinating and sharing this presentation.*

Hello. For those of you who do not know me, my name is Richard Weden and my wife, Mary, and I have owned Great Hawk 63 since 1989. I have been associated with the Hawk Mountain Corporation since the 1970s. Both Mary and I have served on the Board Of Directors here at Hawk, and it's a pleasure for me to stand before you to pay tribute to a long-time resident, friend, and owner of Hawk North, Tom Paino.

Mary and I have known Tom and Debbie Paino for several decades, and we share some fond memories with them both. It was Tom who led Mary and me to 1588 Austin Hill Road, and Tom and Deb attended Mary's and my wedding on our front lawn. Thanks to Tom's guidance, our Great Hawk home is the focal point and heart of our entire family. Tom and Deb shared many late evenings and meals with Mary and me, Suzanne and Norman Sorenson (you'll hear from Suzanne in just a moment), Dixie and Bill Neill, to name just a few of Hawk's old timers!

We sat on our deck many an evening and after several glasses of wine, called for bear.. We were certain bear would answer, and they did...always in the form of Dixie, Ross and Bill Neill from their home across the road.... Or if Tom and Deb happened to be over at the Neill's for dinner, Mary and I became the bears who would answer their call! For a time Austin Hill was certainly alive with the sound of music, bear and/or moose calls! Tom and Debbie introduced our family to water skiing at Lake Dunmore and were the first to teach our son Alex and our daughters, Katie and Ali how to water ski. We will be forever grateful for all of their words of encouragement and support to our children as they attempted again and again to get up on skis. We were all overjoyed when each child succeeded. Every summer the kids always looked forward to skiing with the Paino's at Lake Dunmore. We enjoyed several summers with Tom and Deb – swimming, waterskiing, playing golf, going on moose runs, and sharing meals. In the winters, the girls, Mary and I would fly in from Mexico in the early years, and then later from Russia, to celebrate Christmas in Vermont. Before Dec. 25th, we'd drive to Boston to pick up our son, Alex, who would be flying in from England. While we were making this drive, Tom and Deb would enter our home and put all of our Christmas presents under the tree so that when we returned, the children would race into our home and find that Santa had arrived while we were in Boston collecting Alex. Christmas after Christmas after Christmas, Santa never failed! It's been a privilege for our family to grow up in Vermont and to have Tom and Deb Paino play a huge part in our growing up. Tom's hard work and dedication to the Hawk Colony is evident today. We all enjoy the beauty that surrounds our homes, and our homes themselves, in large part to Tom and Debbie Paino's hard

work, dedication to and love of Hawk, and their long hours of service to each and every one of our families and our homes. It is with a sincere heart that Mary and I thank you, Tom, for all of the positive and fond memories our family has shared with you and Deb. We are collectively here this morning to thank you for your dedication and service to Great Hawk, Timber Hawk and Hawk North. None of us would be here today without you. God Bless you, Tom. May you rest in peace.

Now, I'd like to read a letter written by Suzanne Sorenson. Suzanne and Norman have a home on Meadow Hawk Lane in Great Hawk. Good Morning to everyone who is attending the homeowner's association meeting. Norman and I wanted to add our voices to those remembering and giving gratitude to Tom Paino.

Over 30 years ago Norman and I were living in Brazil and through Dick Weden in Venezuela, we were introduced to Hawk. It quickly became a passion and a plan to have a home in the mountains one day. I became one of the "Hawk Ambassadors" and used it more than one occasion to successfully land a wonderful table at a well-known restaurant in Rio. While living in Caracas, Norman and I built our home at the top of the mountain at Timber Hawk with an extraordinary view and our very first home of our own. We joined other expatriates in living the original concept of the hawk, a bird who flies high above the clouds at great speed and height, lands in the treetops and studies the expanse of terrain below selectively. Norman and I spent over 10 years away from North America and it was our Hawk home that gave us our roots. It was shortly after moving in that we met Tom who arrived with what would become the first of many years of remodel suggestions at my request. I believe my issue with the first house was, when I opened the refrigerator, it banged into the kitchen

table. Tom grinned and said, "Well, you can either spend \$20,000 in bumping out the kitchen, or – get rid of the table!" What followed over the years was another house in Timber Hawk, all brokered by Tom, now in sales, our first house in Great Hawk and finally our current home on Meadow Hawk Lane, which Tom sold to us before we moved back to Brazil. Tom brilliantly remodeled the house by adding a living room and a dining room, all Tom's design and effort. In the past few years the bug had hit again and I consulted with Tom on expanding the kitchen. Tom, by then, was totally comfortable in being himself with me and he said, "Well, Suzanne, there is nothing here that can't be fixed by a big cardboard box!" That was Tom and no one ever made me laugh as hard. No one epitomized Vermont and Hawk as much as Tom and his beloved Debbie. Tom's passing has left a huge emptiness for the Sorensen's, and it is with great appreciation and love that we remember him. "Tom, there is no one here to listen to my expansion wish list, but you know what? I am getting my cardboard box ready!" Love, Suzanne