

“My life in Wenham” by Dianne Bucco

Twenty seven years ago in January, our offer was accepted for the purchase of a house in Wenham. It was our first house. Oh what joy but oh boy what to do now? Once the purchase was complete and we were actual homeowners, we then had to start combining our two lives and all of our “stuff”. As we did that, we met our neighbors and they loved to share information about Wenham. We learned about how the Town was governed by Town Meeting and that all registered voters were expected to attend. I was told about the Wenham Village Improvement Society and all that the organization does for the Town. I was encouraged by the former owner of our house as well as by the very nice next door neighbor to join. I believe I was told it was the “thing” to do once you moved to Town. I listened to all the advice began to get connected to the community although both my husband and I were working full time outside of the Town. We met new friends through the WVIS and the neighborhood. It was a wonderful time to start out as a new couple in our own house in a new Town.

Soon our household grew to include a dog and so I headed to Town Hall to meet the Town Clerk, Fran Young who held that position for over 10 years. Fran was just one person who made a big impression on me. She was so happy that we were residents and now had added a dog to our family. She explained how the dog licensing worked as well as almost everything we needed to know as new residents. She was always welcoming regardless of the amount of times we asked her question after question about the workings of the Town. Adding children to our family not only enlarged our family circle but also our friend circle especially as we entered the school system.

Although we outgrew the house (or so we thought) and had to expand it, we never outgrew the Town. Being involved in the lives of my children plus events such as Town Meeting, local elections, WVIS summer programs along with the school events kept us very busy and content.

Time went on and the kids grew up and I again began to work outside the home. I stayed within the community because well, why would I look elsewhere, as my whole life was here. As the children continued to grow and start to move out, we felt as if our house (now too large for us) would be perfect for another family as it had been for us. We looked to move. By this time, I had become completely rooted in Wenham that moving out of Wenham never even entered into our minds.

Looking back, I knew nothing about Wenham prior to 1991 nor was I aware of the satisfaction received from working for your community. It may be true in other communities as well but from my perspective, being the elected Town Clerk for the Town of Wenham is the best and is one of my finest accomplishments.