



President's Letter

The Board's original plan at the start of my term was to finish the installation of the new gates, begin a five-year plan to pave the oldest third of The Settings roadways, and if there was a little money left over, improve the landscaping at the Clubhouse.

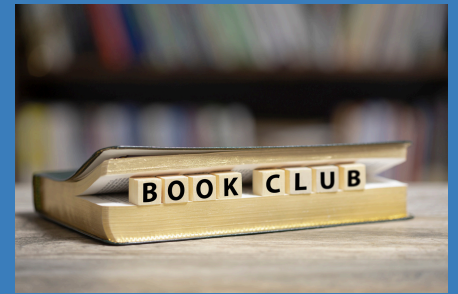
Then **Helene** destroyed those plans, and impacted much of the community.

The Board, since September 27, has been in full disaster recovery mode. Though much has been done, there is much more to be completed.

What has been done:

- Numerous trees were downed, and thanks to our resident lumbermen, the roads were cleared within a couple of days. Thanks to all the chainsaw warriors!
- Larger debris piles on Old Lafayette, Cottage Settings, and elsewhere were removed from the streets thanks to contractors Godfrey Grading and Enhance It.
- Culverts that were blocked have been cleared, or at least opened sufficiently to allow water to flow and reduce the possibility of backed-up water.
- Debris has been removed from numerous areas.
- Landslides have been repaired at the clubhouse, on Settings Boulevard above Sisters View, and on Greybeard Loop.
- Part of Old Lafayette has been repaved, curbing installed, and backfilled.

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The Book Club meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 3:00 PM in the Clubhouse. All are welcome to attend.

Here are the book selections for the coming months:

January 15 - *The Lost Bookshop*

Author Evie Woods

February 19 - *The Art Thief*

Author Michael Finkel

March 19 - *Sky Club*

Author Terry Roberts

April 16 - *James*

Author Percival Everette

President's Letter
(Continued)



What still needs to be done:

- All the culverts will require repairs, a few will require major repairs, and the rest need repair so that they can withstand future rain events and support the roadways.
- Two of the three slides mentioned above will require further work to stabilize. The Clubhouse slide will need to be landscaped with suitable plants to improve stability and improve its appearance
- Complete the roadside debris removal, and begin the debris removal process of the streams. Stream debris removal is dependent upon Corps of Engineer approval.

The Board has been quite busy trying to accomplish all of this. An engineering team consisting of myself, Janice Johnston, David Gramley and Deepal Eliatamby have been working with consulting engineers, a civil engineer, and a geo technician to evaluate the culverts and slide areas. The consulting engineer has been tasked to develop a suitable bid document so that we can solicit bids to repair the culvert and slide areas.

We are planning to hold a community meeting at the Clubhouse and by webcast on Saturday January 25, 2025 beginning at 10 AM to discuss the above items, and inform The Settings community on repairs, and solicit feedback and suggestions from all.

Jim Schorr - President

Your Board of Directors wants to express its sincere appreciation to everyone who responded to the many challenges of Helene's devastation within our community, and for everyone's continued efforts. Thank you!

We especially want to express support for our neighbors who suffered severe damage to their homes. Thankfully, we did not experience fatalities or significant injuries because of the storm; however, it hurts to experience the loss of things that are meaningful to us. You are in our thoughts.

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step" said Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu, which is a good reminder for us all as we continue to work through storm recovery – we still have a long way to go to restore this community we all love, so it's important to continue supporting each other as we rebuild step-by-step.

News From the Board



Handling Helene

On Friday, September 27, 2024, Tropical Storm Helene caused tremendous damage throughout WNC, including The Settings of Black Mountain. If you're interested, here is a 28-minute video explaining the physics behind the storm ([video](#)). The following day, the government declared the area DR-4827-NC, the official designation of what is now a federal disaster area.

What's been done?

As you'd expect, our community came together in the immediate aftermath of Helene. The first priority was to clear blocked roads to allow vehicles to come and go – several neighbors with chainsaws and muscle, along with contractors' heavy equipment, achieved that goal in the first 72 hours. Residents met outside by the gatehouse every day at noon to share information about road conditions, where to find water, and other day-to-day needs. While the power remained out, security guard Mike McCormick helped to keep our community secure.

Where are we now?

Since then, much work has been underway to recover from the storm. The washed-out road to the main water tank was repaired. Some failing slopes, like the one adjacent to the Clubhouse, have been stabilized. Curbs and sidewalks along a portion of Old Lafayette have been repaired. Massive amounts of debris have been removed. Most importantly, detailed technical assessments have been prepared by engineering firms to plan for the significant storm recovery work that remains to be done.

What does the future hold?

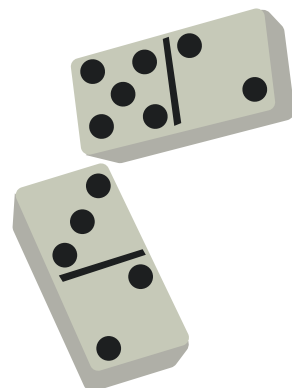
These detailed engineering assessments are being assembled into documents to be sent to various contractors to invite competitive bids. The primary focus of these bids will be on the repair of culverts and further slope stabilization.

The TSOBM board of directors will hold a meeting (in-person and live-streamed) on Saturday January 25, 2025 to provide additional details and solicit community feedback regarding our storm recovery efforts.

UPCOMING SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

*Join us at the SOBM
Clubhouse! Meet new
neighbors and catch
up with old friends.*

**January 21st
Soup and Game Night**



**February 9th
Super Bowl Party**

**March 15th
St. Patrick's Day Party**



DRINKS ON THE PORCH - SEPTEMBER



FALL POTLUCK



HOLIDAY POTLUCK



To find out about events happening around town,
click on the image or scan the QR code.

