

# QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS



## The Zagray Quarterly

15 December 2020

### **PRESIDENT'S NOTES – George Lehr**

It's the last month of the year and I'm ready to say good riddance to a horrible year. The pandemic shut down our shows, shutting off the main source of our income.

But despite the pandemic, there was a lot of activity at the farm and a lot of progress was made with the pavilion & kitchen, the well & pump house/shed, organizing the Tractor Building and improving the looks of the grounds. Hopefully, you'll read more about that as you read on.

Peter Bezanson was elected Director at the October meeting and the officers were all reelected.

Stay safe, enjoy the holidays, and wish for a better year with a return to things more normal.

### **FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER – Art Chester**

This year has really hurt our treasury. We have lost well in excess of \$50,000 due to being forced to cancel all three shows. We cannot at this time, fund the bathrooms and probably the septic field, although I am awaiting bids on that project. Donations, as always, are desperately needed, in cash or stock transfers.

Tractor barn spaces are all spoken for at this time.

**Dues for 2021 are due, and still \$20.00 per year.**

Lifetime memberships are \$500 and help the museum grow!

I will be sending out reminders to all who have spaces in the building for the yearly maintenance portion of their spaces. The building committee settled on \$75 for the first space, and \$50 each for additional spaces. The funds are to help offset costs for electricity, insurance, and a soon to come IP camera system.

For those of you who contribute to the United Way campaign, QVEA is now listed as a charitable organization allowing you to direct your donation to us for the support and expansion of the Zagray Farm Museum. The Pfizer Foundation also has a volunteer program that provides QVEA with substantial donations each year, based on the volunteer work of members who work or are retired from Pfizer.

We are set-up with Amazon Smile as well. This program donates ½ of 1 percent of eligible purchases to a charity of your choice. The pricing is the same on Amazon Smile as on Amazon. Paste or type this link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1426891> into your browser to connect to QVEA's page and get started!

## **Saw Mill**

I picked up two nice fir (I believe, although we don't see much of that around here) logs for rafters. Picked up with the help of Peter Bucci's tractor, that is! Still need more, but I've got a couple of possibilities. We also received a large hemlock that was cut into 24' 2X12's needed for the beams.

We have about 60 of the 2"X12"X16' rafters needed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> engine building but 80 more need to be cut. All of the posts have been cut as well.

So, our emphasis remains on producing the necessary materials for the second engine building. We can now store lumber under the rear shed roof of the new tractor building, giving us more room under the mill.

## **SAW LOGS NEEDED BADLY!**

Logs for the saw mill. In particular, 16'6" pine logs that are 20 inch diameter or more on the small end for rafters (18 logs minimum needed) Call Art at 860-982-5158 to haul.

## **Pavilion Building**

The exterior of the pavilion is complete with the addition of a front entrance skirt and rear pad for propane tanks. Allen and Dave are working on the kitchen interior. Most of the electric is done and the hood is installed. As with any design build, we are making adjustments as we go to get a very workable finished product and to prepare for future offerings from the kitchen. I am currently getting quotes for the GST septic system. I'm hopeful we will be able to open it for our May 2021 show!



The duct work will be covered eventually.

## Well and Well House

The foundation and floor were poured for the well house, along with a drainage system. Water lines were installed to key points, and the pipe for power to the building was installed. Construction has commenced as the weather allowed.



I should get the roof on it before bad weather and complete it in the spring. The basement area will allow us to install a standard WellTrol unit and the hot water heater needed for the future bathroom facility with the worry of freezing pipes. We will also be able to drain the outlying water lines to 4 feet below grade, making winterizing easy.

# Tractor Building

We are moving things into the building to be set up on the mezzanine in the spring and thinking about how to display other items. We have also set up a consignment area at the west door where we can sell unneeded items and take in items from members to sell.

It works like this: Bring the item to the area, fill out a numbered tag and enter your info in the blue binder, along with minimum sale price. You need not be there to sell an item. 10% of the sale price goes to the Farm. See Art for more info.

## STATIONARY ENGINES – Connor Bishop & Ethan Bailey

As we're getting ready to hibernate, it's time to reflect on what was accomplished this year and think about what we should plan to work on for next year. We recently did some cleanup of the area next to the engine building, in preparation for the second building which will hopefully start construction next year. There are still many pieces of equipment that need to be gone through and sorted that are along the tree line behind the engine building, which will open up plenty of extra space as the stationary power display area becomes more active. We are also planning on moving the loading dock (again!) to assist traffic in this area.

With the construction of a second engine building, brings the need for more compressed air, tanks, and plumbing. Any donations of high pressure and volume air compressors, tanks, and iron pipe/fittings would be appreciated.

The Northwest 80D that we got from East Hartford Equipment is still sitting where it was dropped off early this year. It needs plenty of work, including raising the gantry, adjusting the injectors, freeing up the unused clutch and brake for the other cable drum, and attaching the pullshovel attachment to it. It will be a great display in the sand pit when it's done!

On the topic of cranes, we have decided to chain up all crane booms for safety. This will require some chain and hooks or connector links. As chains are always in high demand and short supply at the farm, any donations would be appreciated!

So many projects, so little time... and volunteers! If you've been interested in helping out at the farm but don't know where to start, stop by on a weekend and see what's going on!

Merry Christmas and happy New Years!

Connor

## **OUTSIDE EQUIPMENT STORAGE – David Chester**

The Board of Directors (BOD) of the Zagray Farm Museum will be doing an evaluation of ALL equipment currently stored on the museum grounds. This review includes all QVEA and member-owned equipment. This review will take place this fall/winter 2020 and spring 2021.

A committee has been created to update the inventory of equipment. We are aware that there are many pieces on the grounds that are member-owned and undocumented. Per the QVEA Standing Rules #11 and #16, ANY piece of member-owned equipment coming to the farm for non-show use or storage is required to have a storage form filled out and approved by the BOD. If you have an item stored on the grounds that is undocumented, please contact Dave Chester 860-982-5163 and fill out an Equipment Storage Application (found on the [zagrayfarmmuseum.org](http://zagrayfarmmuseum.org) website under “Downloads”). Please be aware that owners of documented and undocumented items may be asked to remove or relocate their item(s) at the end of this review (April 30, 2021).

According to club rule #16, **after two years from the date of this newsletter (15 December 2020) and after the inability to contact the owner, undocumented items may be claimed as club property.**

Going forward we will still be accepting personally stored items at the farm, however the conditions, timeframe, and process will be reviewed and rewritten.

This is all in an effort to maintain our beautiful grounds. Also, as we are currently building new buildings at a rapid pace, the available outside space is becoming a premium.

## **PANDEMIC TAX TIP**

### **Non-Itemizers Can Deduct up to \$300 for Charity Donations in 2020**

Allen Alonzo asked for this to be brought to members attention in this newsletter and remind you that our club (QVEA) is a charitable organization. The tax break, part of the CARES Act, applies to cash (up to \$300) given to charities by Dec. 31. It would be an “above the line deduction” which means this would be in addition to the standard deduction. Since the standardized deduction was increased, charitable contributions no longer were deductible for most people who don’t have enough deductions to itemize. Below is a link that explains how it works. If you want to take advantage of this tax break, please make your check out to QVEA, dated with a Dec. 2020 date and send to Art Chester, our Treasurer, at **180 SOUTH PLUMB RD, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457.**

<https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2020/how-to-deduct-2020-charity-donations.html>

**HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY EVERYONE!!**

Dianne Tewksbury  
QVEA Secretary & Editor  
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**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, INC. (QVEA)**



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$20.00 per person for one year, payable with application.  
Dues include liability insurance at the farm.

**RETURN TO: QVEA, 180 SOUTH PLUMB RD, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457**