

QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS



The Zagray Quarterly

June 2018

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

George Lehr

Our May show was very successful. Art put together a comparison to past May shows and this year's show was the most successful! As the number of show attractions grow, turnout for our shows grows; so, I'm happy to report work on the pulling pit for antique tractors has progressed very well and it should be ready for use at the July show. The antique tractor pulling will take place on the Sunday half of the show and should boost attendance for what has historically been the slower day of the show.

We received a couple trailer loads of stuff donated by Billy Williams including a nice heavy-duty bench that's already in use in the engine building. Additional donations include a Farmall 240 tractor, another lathe, and a drum and disk turning machine that can be set up to grind flywheels.

Bob Chester has resigned from the Board of Directors thus creating a vacancy for next term. That vacancy will be filled by election in October. Individuals may apply or nominations may be made prior to the August meeting. Candidates must meet the requirements in the Standing Rules to be eligible.

Work is ongoing to scrape and paint the house and to neaten up areas where weeds have overgrown. The parking area along the stone wall adjacent to Route 85 looks great. Everything should be really inviting for our July show. Hope to see you there.

FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER

Art Chester

If you haven't paid your 2018 dues yet please take a moment to do so. If you are mailing it, make your \$20 check payable to QVEA, and mail it to 180 South Plumb Road, Middletown, CT 06457. There's no need to fill out a new membership form, but if you have changes to your address, phone number or email, please include the changes. A stamped, self-addressed envelope is also welcome. Any and all donations beyond the dues are tax deductible and very much needed and appreciated!

If you have an email address, please email Dianne Tewksbury at tewksbdk@outlook.com to change from snail mail! That will save our printing-sorting-folding-mailing crew some labor, and save your club a **lot** of money, as well as being environmentally 'green'.

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 1/2 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!

Museum Building

Formerly the BIG Building!

The permit process is underway for this building. A preliminary meeting with the wetlands board went well with one minor change. We'll (read Ned!) formally present it to them for approval 6/14. It has been in front of the building dept as well, so we don't see any stumbling block there. Archie Tanner has been in contact with Andy Tierney, Hebron Town Manager, about some relief on the permit fees for this building. We also have filed for a special zoning exemption for Hebron, same as we did for Colchester 15 years ago. That is going for public hearing on 6/26. Again, we are not expecting any issues, and the town has been easy to work with. If all goes well, a permit should be in hand, or permission to go forward, around the end of the month. Then let the digging begin!

We have July and August to excavate and get a foundation in the ground, allowing 8 to 10 weeks for King Construction to erect the building.

Our portion of the project is mainly excavation and electrical. Help will be needed preparing the trench for footings. Kahn Tractor and Bill Williams both have offered skid steers to us, so we should be good there.

We will send temporary power to the site via the existing pipes to both ends of the building for the contractor. Help is needed for all phases of our work here, from trucking away excess material, to grading, to electrical and piping work to make this project happen. We will be under a timeline to allow the contractor to have the site for construction.

There are still things to discuss and finalize, most notably the size of a gravel area in the building for crawlers.

Imagine what the addition of a 17,600 square foot building will do for our shows, as well as protect our presently homeless equipment and provide some space for members personal restorations, etc. It will also provide twelve premium 16X14 covered display/vendor spaces with electricity during shows using the front shed roof.

I know that together we can make it happen!

Stationary Engine Building

I elected to build both sections of roof over the rear portions of the building. Good thing, because the Wichman engine from Mystic Seaport is on its way to the farm to go under one side. The engine committee decided to place the Pattin engine on the other side. It seems they can fill it before I can get it in the air!

Saw Mill

Still wanted – Logs for the saw mill. Even though we received a substantial number of logs, we are still on the lookout for more. 16'6" pine logs in particular that are 20 inch diameter or more on the small end will make good rafters. 12'6" logs of similar size will be used for 2X4's and siding. We have a good supply, but having extra material in stock would be nice. Power has been installed to the woodworking building and the piping extended to the saw mill. We'll have power there in the spring.

Pavilion Building

Wetlands has approved our new location as long as we get Chatham Health approval. After some conversation with the State Health Dept., it was decided to connect both the pavilion and the restroom facilities to a GST type septic system. Two reasons: one, Chatham Health and the State Health Dept. like the plan; and two, we don't have enough room to install a standard septic system, given the location of our buildings, wetlands, and the roadway. We are in contact with a septic guy who can do this type of system, who also happens to be local and attends our shows.

EQUIPMENT

Connor Bishop and Ethan Bailey

Finally, our HD-11 is back together! Thanks to Nate's hard work the dozer has a new main clutch which seems to work very well. It is back together just in time for our big excavation projects of the Pavilion and Museum Building. One issue to note about the HD-11 is that anyone operating it should keep an eye on engine oil and water levels – they have been mixing recently and as a result the water level gets low.

Our Caterpillar 212 grader, a machine we need to maintain our roads, is also getting a clutch job. One of our newer members, David Rusgrove, has taken on the project. The motor has been pulled out and clutch removed. Upon inspection, the clutch fingers were worn and several pieces of hardware had worked their way out of the clutch/pressure plate assembly. Currently we are evaluating whether the clutch fingers can be built back up with weld, or simply replaced.

The Clark forklift up front has received more attention. I took apart the front end enough to finally access the brakes. Not only are they very unusual in construction (they are half-calipers that push on one side of a rotor, rather than squeezing the rotor from both sides) but the calipers are very corroded and stuck. It's a surprise that they worked at all! Hopefully some heat and oil can loosen up the pistons of the caliper.

The Fairbanks-Morse engine is very close to the point where it can be started. We still need to belt up an electric motor to our 250PSI air compressor, finish a few fuel and oil lines, grout the base, and align the generator. The raw water side of the cooling system is also unfinished, but it is not needed for a short start-up and run.

As always, we love to see new volunteers! This year's project list includes lots of jobs good for someone looking to get more involved in the Farm. Among other things, we will be working on putting up the Pavilion and Museum buildings, digging trenches and foundations, doing painting and maintenance on the farmhouse, and cutting trees around the sandpit to make a safer spectator walkway path. We welcome all ages and skill levels, so stop by on the weekend to find a project for you.

Connor

THE SHOW YOU MISSED

Dave McClary

This was the second year that I have attended the Whately Engine Museum Show and I realized there is much of interest to QVEA members. This is a small private show on property surrounded by well cultivated farmland. There is no selling only individual displays. But the main feature is a large engine shed much like the one we are planning to build. Inside there are large engine displays similar to those seen at Coolspring. Of real interest to me was a machine tool display consisting of an iron planer and a drill press, both set up for belt driving. The planer is made by Jones & Lamson Co. and is an 1864 edition of the 1850 Robbins and Lawrence iron planer in our machine shop museum. Sitting on the table was a very rusty engine block that needs a lot of planing if there is ever to be a tight seal with the head. But that is what an iron planer is for. Next to it was a rare Henry & Wright drill press, also a later edition of the Henry & Wright drill press that I restored and have set up and running off a belt drive in our machine shop museum. The source of power was a steam engine fed from a large Wood steam boiler outside the building. This is like a steam traction engine without wheels but of similar size. The building is similar to the one QVEA plans to build this year. Estimated size of the building is 60' x 120'. There are catwalks down both sides and they were filled with antique farm equipment, a model for what is being considered in the existing QVEA barn. See the picture below. Don't miss this show next year!



Dianne Tewksbury
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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