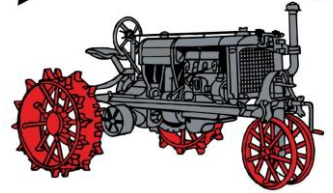


QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS

Zagray Farm



Museum

The Zagray Quarterly

16 September 2020

PRESIDENT'S NOTES -- George Lehr

The pandemic has not only caused a huge disruption of our personal lives and routines, it's knocked out our ability to raise money. We had no May or July show and now will have no October show either. The October show was not feasible in most part because outdoor events (fairs and festivals) are limited to 500 people and we could not deal with an overrun of people coming to attend the show in a safe or appealing manner.

As I announced in the June newsletter, long time member Dave McClary has resigned as QVEA Director and opened a position on the board to be filled by election at the October meeting. The Board of Directors has approved Peter Bezanson as meeting the nominee qualification requirements for the October meeting election. Election of the Director as well as the officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) will be conducted with a vote by the members present at the meeting and with the absentee ballot placed in this newsletter to be returned by October 15th by those who cannot attend the meeting.

Stay safe and wish for a let up of the pandemic restrictions in time for our May 2021 show.

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 2020 are due and payable, 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

Most available wood was consumed for the pavilion, with the remaining slated for the new well house, to be located to the right of the engine building in front of our new well.

We have about 60 of the 2"X12"X16' rafters needed for the 2nd 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), and four 24'6" logs of similar size if at all possible. Call Art at 860-982-5158 to haul.

Pavilion Building

The Pavilion is nearing completion as I write this. A few 'punch list' items and painting the kitchen area is all that remain. It looks GREAT! If I do say so myself!

Well and Well House

The well was drilled this past week first to 400 feet, and then when that produced minimal water, on to 500 feet. I had a call from the driller early Monday morning (same guy who drilled the well at the farmhouse 16 years ago BTW) and he asked if I wanted to drill another 100 feet for more capacity as the water level on Friday was at 325 feet. We discussed fracking the well to open up the seams. He called me back inside of an hour to say that the static water level was now at 6 feet, and further drilling was unnecessary as we now have about 750 gallons in the well. Good news. We have decided to build a small well house to put the Welltrol in the basement so it cannot freeze. It will allow us to easily drain the water system in the fall, and add additional water distribution as needed. Another storage area on the main level will be beneficial as well.

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.

FOR SALE

Case 1948 VAI for sale. Engine, transmission, brakes and clutch are free. Tractor is complete and a great candidate for restoration. \$750. Proceeds to benefit the Zagray Farm Museum

NEEDED!

Decent engine hoist for the repair building. We have a monster and one of questionable quality.

ENGINES – Connor Bishop & Ethan Bailey

While this has been the slowest year that I can remember at the Farm, there has been some progress nonetheless. The Bessemer FC has been painted and moved to its new home inside the engine building, so now it can be plumbed into gas, cooling water, and compressed air permanently. A 300 gallon cooling water tank has been installed behind the building to cool this engine and the Superior, which will eventually go next to it. I am also in process of installing a gas line through the building to fuel all of my propane-fueled engines, doing away with lugging around 100 pound tanks. I also got the Ajax/Ball half-breed engine running after fixing a snapped packing gland stud, new head gasket, shimmed bearings, and plumbing. It is the Farm's first running display of a half-breed engine, which is an engine that started out as a steam engine and was converted in the early 1900's to run on gas.

Work on the Ruston Hornsby diesel that came from Kent also continues. There was a rocker arm and pushrod that was badly stuck in the injection pump/governor box, but two weeks in Art's electrolysis tank freed them up very well. With this step done, the box, sideshaft, and cam gears can be reinstalled. The piston has also been removed to hone the cylinder with a home-made hone made from a bucket with sandpaper flaps taped onto it (Hard to find a 10" cylinder hone!). It isn't perfect, but it will work just fine. Once the rings are cleaned up, the piston can go back in. There is much more work to do, but it is nice to have forward movement on this project again.

Despite the slow year, I have seen a few new faces around the Farm, and I hope to see more in the future. There is something for everyone, stop by on a weekend and see what's going on!

From Dave Chester:

Now that we operate out of multiple buildings our tool inventory is spread out thinly over 5 buildings and one mobile repair shop. Looking for donations of basic mechanics hand tools, combination wrenches, socket sets, ratchets (desperate for 1/2 inch ones) screwdrivers, plyers etc.

In addition to tools also looking for donations of the following items:

- 36 inch lower kitchen cabinet or 2 smaller ones
- standard duty/size engine hoist. Decent Quality (non-harbor freight). (new or used).

Also:

To all Members, Please Please DO NOT park any type of equipment at any time within 100 feet of the 2 big doors at either end of our new Big Tractor Building. When equipment is parked within close proximity to these doors it makes it extremely difficult to drive equipment, tractors, and trailers in and out of the building. We risk damage to the equipment, the building, or even our own personal vehicles when trying to navigate around equipment parked close to the doors.

Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

From the Secretary & Editor, Dianne Tewksbury

The Pavilion and Kitchen are well on their way.

Art didn't waste any time getting started with the Pavilion building after the cement floor had cured in June. Then the kitchen started to appear.



First roof truss.



In the picture below, Dave Chester is on the manlift and Joe Motuzick is behind the trusses on left.





The new "crane guy", our Vice President Connor Bishop, normally found in the Engine Building. The crane was used to lift the trusses.



- Today, Sept. 18, the roof is done and the windows and doors are in. Art has covered them with plastic in preparation for spray painting the outside kitchen walls.
- Dave has been working to figure out sizes of cabinets and counters inside.
- Before all this got started, I worked with the Town of Hebron and Chatham Health to get our permit to build the kitchen and we now have it in-hand. I've also been helping Dave find appliances of the size we will need in the future to ensure there is adequate space and helps him figure where plumbing and electrical outlets need to go.

It's been a big project, but it's finally coming to fruition.

It does look GREAT!

**Quinebaug Valley Engineers Assoc.
ABSENTEE SECRET BALLOT FOR MEMBERS WHO CANNOT ATTEND
THE OCTOBER MEETING**

Pete Bezanson was nominated for an open position on the Board of Directors.

The existing Board of Directors approved Peter Bezanson as meeting the nominee qualification requirements.

Peter Bezanson _____ **YES** _____ **NO**

No one new was nominated for any of the four office positions.

However, we still need to vote on the existing Officers.

President George Lehr _____ **YES** _____ **NO**

Vice President Connor Bishop _____ **YES** _____ **NO**

Treasurer Art Chester _____ **YES** _____ **NO**

Secretary/Editor Dianne Tewksbury _____ **YES** _____ **NO**

If you are unable to attend this coming October meeting (scheduled for Oct. 27), please cast your votes and mail this ballot to the Secretary by October 15, 2020.

**Dianne Tewksbury
90 Park Road
Colchester, CT 06415**

Dianne Tewksbury
QVEA Secretary & Editor
90 Park Road
Colchester, CT 06415

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