

# QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS



## The Zagray Quarterly



December 2017

### PRESIDENT'S NOTES

**George Lehr**

Our October show did well. Saturday was very busy. Unfortunately, heavy rain on Sunday made it only a one day show. Our new engine building, with all the engines on display and with quite a few operating around the outside, is a really good addition to the show's attractions. Speaking of show attractions, I'm hopeful that Garden tractor pulling will be added back to that list for the May show. When it was done at our shows years ago it was very popular. Also, the barn cleanout is underway and when complete will provide a great space for some static farm museum displays.

QVEA leadership has changed. Ed Bezanson resigned due to health issues and as a result, Connor Bishop was nominated for Vice President and voted into office at the October meeting. Also, nominees Mike Miner, Sean Mason and Ethan Bailey were voted into the director positions vacated by Dave Dziomba, Al Bezanson and Merle Thoma.

It's the end of the year and a time to think about how good 2017 was for QVEA and the Zagray farm museum. We have a new engine building full of great old engines and complete with electric power that's being run out to our other buildings. Good donations have and continue to come in. Now that we own the farm, we can continue our plan to develop our museum. We just need a lot of money.

Hope you all keep warm and safe and enjoy a good holiday. See you in the spring.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER, Art Chester

It's that time of year again. 2018 dues are still \$20. If you are mailing it, make your 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](mailto: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!

# The BIG Building

## For lack of an official name (yet)

As some of you know, plans were started in 2006 to erect a 140' X 88' building on the grounds. We had selected King Construction of New Holland, PA as the contractor and put down a deposit. This resulted in our landlord refusing to sign a permit as they felt they were caught in the middle of a land use dispute between the two tenants. That refusal eventually landed us in court with the Judge ruling that we could put up the building. Still, there was resistance to the project that went unresolved until the CHS offered to transfer the property to QVEA and completely extricate itself. A deal was then (necessarily) struck with the CF&G to buy out their lease as part of the transfer, and here we are. We can now sign our own permit and put the building where we wanted it in the first place. The building has grown from the initial size to 200' by 88', and we have eliminated the interior partial mezzanine in favor of an owner built 4' wide shelf for light farm implements, pedal tractors, etc.

Only **ONE** obstacle remains, funding the project. We expect the project to cost \$325,000 including concrete and site work. We have currently \$130,000 available from the Zagray Fund, and \$50,386 in Apple stock recently donated by Dudley Diebold getting us past 1/2

way to our goal. We have been talking about this building for nearly 11 years, **it is time to do it!**

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. With that in mind, we need to find the balance of the money. **So I'm asking all of you who can to donate and make this happen!** We have come a long way, let's not stall out now. Donations of \$1,000, \$2,000, \$5,000 or larger will move us quickly toward this goal. I'll start it off with a \$10,000 donation. Remember, donations of appreciated stock is a good way to get full value for your donation as well as avoid capital gains tax.

The goal is to have funding in place (or get close, I'll get creative) by February for a spring groundbreaking. A donor's appreciation plaque and preferential status for space inside is being contemplated as well.

### **Stationary Engine Building**

This project is now complete, save for a little roofing work on one eyebrow, a shelf across the rear, and the gutters. Progress continues toward making the Fairbanks and the Atlas operational. We hope to see them both run in 2018!

So many engines have come in that we have to begin working on the **SECOND** engine building, a duplicate to be located to the left (west) of the current one.

### **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**

We encountered delays as soon as well / septic was added to the project. While the well poses no issues, the septic is mired in confusion and regulations. We now have plans acceptable to the Health Department and will be going for permits. Construction in 2018!

### **Machine Shop, Dave McClary**

There is currently one nearly restored engine taking up space in the Machine Shop. This is the result of me not being physically able to complete the work needed and no longer having the home workshop space needed. Consequently I am offering ownership of this

engine to the individual who volunteers to complete the restoration, get it running and display it at QVEA shows. The engine is as follows:

1956 Wisconsin model TF (53.9 cu-in twin cyl) closed power unit (full sheet metal enclosed). This is a hand cranked magneto ignition version of this engine with clutch and PTO. Because of known history, the restoration work done was limited to cleaning and painting. Current status is painting complete, sheet metal remains to be installed. Engine has not been run. Factory manual is included. Engine is rigged for lifting and has wood base for stability. It can be seen in the Machine Shop. Call Dave at 860-779-8718.

### **Our New VICE PRESIDENT, Connor Bishop Also Equipment Committee Co-Chair**

Projects around the farm are starting to slow down with the cooler weather, but there are still several winter projects going on. Ethan started work on two hit and miss engines at the farm, a Stover and an Economy. Mike Minor has the Stover head to do some valve work on, and I cleaned up the other by lapping valves and cutting a new head gasket. They should both be running engines for the Spring show, but we are still in need of small steel-wheeled carts for our engines! If anyone has something that they want to donate, please drop it off by the Stationary Engine Building.

The head for our Ruston Hornsby diesel engine is finished and all 24 inches of cracks were repaired, but there is still work to be done on the engine this winter. The main tasks are to rebuild the injector pump and injector, remove the piston and cylinder sleeve and evaluate their condition, remove the clutch and flywheel from the crankshaft in order to polish the crank, and paint and re-pinstripe the engine. The Babbitt bearings also may need to be re-poured.

The HD11 has a new clutch in it, currently all that is left to be done is to adjust it. Many thanks to our new young member Nate for tackling such a big job! Also, last year I worked on our TD14 dozer that was parked years ago due to injection pump trouble. I took the pump apart at home, loosened the stuck delivery valves and high pressure fuel plunger, and I feel that the pump should be functional now. Up front by the repair shop there is a Caterpillar D4 that I was working on a while ago. I installed a new radiator and welded up a crack on the fuel filter housing, and the motor runs very well. However, the machine needs steering brakes (and possibly clutches). Given the many other projects currently going on, this machine will be brought out back again to be worked on at a later time. Lastly, the Clark forklift has been taken apart to fix the brakes – the wheel cylinders are suspected to be leaking brake fluid.

The Bridgeport mill and Hendey lathe in the repair shop are fully functional now and have been used for a few small projects. The mill still needs to be indicated in to be perfectly

square, but currently it is functional for loose-tolerance work. Thanks to Dave Chester and Allen Alonzo for helping with the electrical hook up and phase converter set up on the milling machine!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our members!

Connor Bishop

## EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR, EHTAN BAILEY

A donation received earlier this summer is either a self-feed corn silage chopper, or a self-feed wood chipper. There is no name or ID tag on it. Whatever its original purpose was required a heavy duty chipper, which makes me believe it was a wood chipper for a local paper pulp company. Any suggestions?



A 1912 Hildreth vertical power axe donated by Gordon Towle from Westbrook, CT, will be part of our growing wood spring. The wood on this and Ned Tewksbury has wood framework. The new saw mill and is drying. Hope running for the May show.



demonstration for the donation is very deteriorated volunteered to recreate the wood has been cut on our to have this power axe



The 1920's Hercules 3e engine was donated by Mark Edmonds from Danielson, CT. Some assembly required, but we like a challenge. Currently a new head gasket made, valves reseated, cleaned the bore, and is fully assembled, great compression, no spark and the gas tank will need attention. Both will be addressed and hopefully running for spring

show.

A 1920's orchard sprayer was our most recent donation by Robert C. Hermann from Westford, MA. It's in great shape and has great original patina. The engine should be running for spring show, piston out, and the valves look great, a little tlc and its sure to run.



Great donations of equipment that were part of farming back in the day.



## Zagray Farm House Committee, Paul Towne

During the Nov. meeting, Paul was voted to be Chairman of the Zagray Farm House Committee. He has added an antique wall phone and now plans to add this antique circa 1930's toaster. He's asking if anyone has any other appropriate antiques they would like to donate to the farm house.

## From the Secretary and Editor, Dianne Tewksbury

One day early this past summer, Ned Tewksbury noticed a window had fallen out of the Chicken Coop. He brought it home to replace the broken window but found that the frame was beyond repair and needed to be replaced. I helped a little by painting the pieces of wood before he put it together. Another window frame was pretty much shot so



he decided to replace that one too. I painted some of the wood. Then he noticed the door was too far gone and decided to re-make that too! I helped, a little--you know, hold the other end of the tape measure, etc., and paint



the boards. Then, with the new window frames in with new

paint and knowing the door was going to have new paint, what the heck! "We" decided the whole building could use a new coat of paint. Ned went on to other projects, so painting the chicken coop ended up being "my" summer project at the farm and it looks almost like new!

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## SHOW DATES FOR 2018

May 5 & 6

July 14 & 15

Oct. 6 & 7

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
EVERYONE!



*and*

A VERY HAPPY  
2018!!



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**