

Friends of Northwest Park January 13, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jay Melley, Chuck Drake, Randy Lee, Terry Langevin, Ford Parker, Mike Novak, April Vines, Chris Alford, Lauren Grimshaw, Nancy Taylor, Florence Barlow, Vivian Cicero, Dawn Morgan, Kathryn Grimshaw Pelton, Lon Pelton, Bill Schoner

Guest: Valerie Allgrove, Botanical Presentation of Plants found at NWP. allgrove@hotmail.com, Jen Filer, Rec. Dept

Regrets: Debby Silliman, Carol MacMullen, Kate Lange, Ann Allen

Absent: Linda Alexander, Dick Dolliver, Tim Curtis, Al Boehm, Mickey Mattei, Heidi Lindberg, Kate Ferris-Morrell

The meeting started at 7:02 pm in the Nature Center.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting were approved unanimously with the following changes: Nancy Taylor being recognized for her work with the Concerts, Mike Novak being present, and the replacement in Chuck Drake's statement that he is considering not doing concerts next year to "if things didn't work out, we should consider not doing them in the future."

The minutes of the December Special Meeting were approved unanimously with the removal of the word interrupt in the first motion made.

Presidents Report: *Windsor Chamber of Commerce* Auction event is April 3rd. Friends are needed to help Jay. Both Heidi and April have volunteered. We can donate up to 12 items for the silent auction (value up to \$200) and up to 12 items for the live auction (value over \$200). We are not to solicit someone who is already a member of the Windsor Chamber and they would like a commitment of up to 15 people to attend the Auction.

Nominating Committee: Steve Ryan was nominated and approved unanimously. We wish to welcome Steve as our newest Trustee to the Friends of Northwest Park.

Botanical Presentation: Valerie Allgrove : Valerie is a Windsor resident who loves swampy, marshy land and the Farmington River, and has a major wildflower passion. She is on the Board of the CT Orchid Society and conservation Chair. Tonight's presentation includes only plants she has seen inside Northwest Park. The spring ephemerals are the best in April, May and early June so once the roses come out you have missed them. Mushrooms in all colors are best in autumn. Her website is valerieallgrove.com. We can a look forward to a link from our website to enjoy her work! The presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by all and we look forward to hearing more from Valerie. She welcomes the Friends who are interested in walking

with her when she visits the Park. Dates will be on her website. We also thank her for her contribution to our Newsletter.

Staff Report: See attached December summary and Geothermal article from Ford Parker. Kathryn discussed the need for 18 volunteers for the Cabin Fever Festival, January 31st from 1-6pm. Kathryn and Jen summarized their proposal for a new Girls Adventure Program for 9-12th graders with a schedule similar to Nature Camp. Fees are similar from \$250-300 per week. Everyone was enthusiastic about their idea with applause following their presentation. A request and motion followed for up to \$750 being authorized for marketing the program. It passed unanimously. Earth Day, April 25th from 10-3pm, was also discussed and a motion was made authorizing Dawn Morgan to spend up to \$200 for the event and to earmark donations for the Windsor Open Space Fund. It passed unanimously.

Sunday Ambassadors are now at a 4 person level. At least 4 more volunteers are needed to keep the Nature Center open on Sundays from 1-4pm. Ford agreed to solicit and hold a training program for those interested. If you can spare a minimum of 4 Sunday afternoons a year, please contact Ford.

The schedule is very flexible.

Newsletter: The deadline for articles is February 15th. We need a volunteer column and a wish list. Anyone interested in writing articles please contact Kathryn.

The Budget for NWP 2009-2010 was presented by Ford. A motion was made to approve \$15,100 with \$3500 pending the approval of the Geothermal Project. There was much discussion about the need to encourage the Town to annually support personnel at the Park: The whole \$3,000 for Land Management (Eric), Interns, \$3600, who keep customer service covered as well as their projects, \$12,600 for benefits for a full time educator, and a percentage of the salary of same person. The Friends are either volunteering or paying to keep the Park open on weekends and provide adequate customer service for those who visit. Based upon the understanding that the Town would pick up more of the Staffing at the Park in future years, the motion was passed. Participation in the Budget process is crucial. The Trustees should support the need for the Town to properly Staff the Park. The first Meeting is at 7:30pm on February 4th at Town Hall where the public is encouraged to comment on the Town Budget.

By-Law Changes: A motion was made to change the by-laws according to the attachment to the agenda. It was approved unanimously with our annual meeting being in April, May or June instead of November, Trustees will serve during fiscal years July 1- June 30th, and gender neutral language being used.

The rest of the agenda has been tabled to the next meeting: Treasurers Report, Honey, Fellowship Group, Founding Friend event.

Mark your calendar: Cabin Fever Festival, January 31st, Town Budget Meeting, February 4th, Pancake Breakfast, March 28th, Auction April 3rd, Earth Day, April 25th
The next meeting is Tuesday February 10th at 7pm in the Nature Center.

We adjourned at 9:05pm

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Langevin, Secretary

NORTHWEST PARK MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER, 2008 - FORD PARKER, PARK MANAGER

PROGRAMS

Environmental Education

Windsor School Programs

- Geology: One (1) school, three (3) classes, and 132 students, grade 5.
- Hoot and Holler: One school (1), two classes (2), 40 students, grade 3.

Public

- Decorate a Tree for Wildlife: 6 in attendance.
- Cross-Country Ski and Snowshoe Rentals: Rentals are going very well. We have serviced over 100 people and raised \$1,040 to date.

MEETINGS

- A meeting was held with Robin Sorensen, Assistant Superintendent for Windsor Schools, to discuss current funding for Windsor schools attending Northwest Park's field trip environmental education programs. It was determined that the per student cost is fair and no changes to price will occur.
- An Earth Day meeting was held with Cyd Groff to begin planning for Earth Day 2009. Cyd had mailed sponsor letters.
- A meeting was held with Kathryn Pelton and Jen Filer to continue Cabin Fever Festival Planning. It looks like everything is in order for the event on January 31 (1pm-6pm).
- A meeting was held with a local scout to discuss goals, objectives, and a timeline for his Eagle Badge project, which is the placement of 13 nesting boxes, for various species, throughout the Park.
- An All Staff Meeting was conducted to discuss Northwest Park's Services on three levels, e.g., (1) Health, Safety, and Welfare, (2) Enhanced and (3) Discretionary. The Park's mission and vision statement was discussed and a SWOT Analysis was conducted.
- Geothermal contractors were identified for receipt of a Request For Proposals (RFP). Copies of the RFP were sent to ten contractors from the region.
- Carpet companies were identified and will be contacted to get quotes for carpeting the Nature Center with recycled fiber carpeting.
- Quotes were received for the Warming Shed and Mule Barn under the Capital Improvement Project funds. Work will begin on these projects this month.
- A meeting was held with a local stone mason. He will be submitting a quote for the repair of the "satellite" pond's wall.

- Weatherproofing of the Nature Center was discussed with Al Neumann and Bill Olehan and a plan was devised to repair or replace all doors in the center. A master key system was also discussed.

Courant.com

Geothermal Heating And Cooling: Say Good-bye To Fossil Fuel

By Jody Boynton

September 23, 2008

Geothermal heating and cooling systems sound like the latest and greatest answer to the skyrocketing price of fossil fuel.

Actually, the technology has been in existence since the 1940s, with the industry growing since the 1970s, according to Georgia Newcomb, a realtor for Bartlett Hollow in Middletown. All the homes in this active-adult development built by Summit Residential have geothermal systems.

"Rising oil prices have created 'the perfect storm' for geothermal," Newcomb said. "People want to get away from dependence on foreign oil."

Builder JR Beaudry, who has geothermal heat systems in all his houses in Heritage Farms in East Granby, says the technology has been used in the South and the West for some time. Now New Englanders are realizing it may be the answer for them.

A geothermal heating and cooling system operates by circulating water, or water

with antifreeze, through pipes buried 450 feet deep in the ground where the temperature is a constant 55 to 60 degrees. When the liquid gets back to the geothermal unit it is either heated or cooled, depending on the season, using 50 to 75 percent less energy than traditional systems. The water warms or cools room air, which is brought inside by a duct system that recirculates the air throughout the house. The system operates on electricity and requires no burning of fossil fuel.

There is little difference in the comfort levels between geothermal and conventional systems, Beaudry said. "Programmable thermostats are not necessary. This is another advantage of geothermal systems: keeping the temperature at one comfortable setting all the time." A 2,600-square-foot model home in Beaudry's East Granby Heritage Farms development cost about \$130 a month to cool to 72 degrees this summer, he said. There are two geothermal wells for each of these houses.

The average annual heating and cooling bill at Bartlett Hollow is projected at about \$2,190, according to Newcomb.

In addition to the obvious savings in fuel costs there are other advantages to geothermal systems. With few moving parts, they are low-maintenance and rarely need service. There is no need for an outside air conditioning compressor. Finally, because there is no burning of fossil fuels, the air quality is better.

If this system is so wonderful, why isn't everyone getting one? First, because it is relatively unknown in this area.

The major sticking point, however, is price. In new homes, adding geothermal increases the price by \$35,000 to \$40,000. Retrofits to existing homes are nearly the same or more.

Well digging is the biggest expense. While an average house might require one or two wells, a larger house could need up to four wells. Beaudry said the price of geothermal might come down when more of the companies installing the systems do the drilling themselves. Gaudet, of White Oak Farm, expects the price to drop in five to seven years. "Geothermal will become standard in new-home construction," he predicted.

Following their experiences with the system in their own developments, White Oak Development and Summit Residential have begun selling geothermal

systems for new homes and retrofits.

There have been several financial incentives for installing geothermal systems. Connecticut Light & Power has a wait list for rebates. Available through the Connecticut Energy Efficiency fund, the rebate was a \$500-per-ton incentive with a maximum payout of \$3,000. For more information call 1-877-WISE-USE (1-877-947-3873).

Another help for people buying a new home with a geothermal system is the Energy Efficient Mortgage (EEM), a so-called "green mortgage," which is federally recognized and can be applied to most home mortgages.

The Energy Improvement Mortgage (EIM) is used when adding an energy efficiency improvement to an existing home. There are also Energy Star loans available from some banks for equipment that carries the Energy Star label.

Copyright © 2009, [The Hartford Courant](#)