
OF DAYS GONE BY...

AND MEETINGS...Before and after the holidays, the Board of Directors managed to meet twice, focusing discussion on the thorny topics of \$\$\$ and land purchase. Membership and Lease Committees also met several times. A questionnaire for potential lessees is near completion. If you are not on the list already and would like to fill out one, contact Juanita Nelson, Woolman Hill, Deerfield 01342. Membership Comm. has been trying to determine what sort of orientation new members would benefit from most. A three meeting orientation period was initiated by the Jan. 12 meeting in Greenfield. Newcomers asked Christel Holtzer of Earthbridge (So. Vermont CLT) questions after David McCauley showed slides of their land. Afterwards one member commented that he'd been through enough "orientation" and was ready to get to work! This is a reflection on the M. Comm.'s inactivity and indecision during the fall. Our apologies. We think that we know what we are doing now and hope to get some feedback on the current orientation to improve for the next round.

LAND... January 12, the Board agreed the purchase process for the farm which Pam and Ed found in Colrain. There is a tricky problem about current ownership so we won't celebrate it until the papers are signed. *** The Montague farm is still open for lessees. The farm will probably be on the market for us in early spring. Ed B. is ready to raise sheep there. Is anyone else ready to renovate a farmhouse or to build their own? Slides of the property will be shown Feb. 26 at Mt. Toby Meeting House if anyone knows curious folks.

MONEY ...We are broke. Simple as that. Our last bill was paid to a much deserving Morning Star Press in West Whately for a fine edition of 1,000 pamphlets. The Board has been in disagreement over sources of funding in the future and whether or not we should pay someone for work. These are questions which all members need to consider and convey any ideas and opinions to the Board at the next general meeting. Steve Morgan is still working on the contra dance benefit series, so stay tuned to the media for future announcements.

COMMUNITY...In talking with different people in the community, its been encouraging to hear reactions to the potential of the VCLT. The Amherst Conservation Commission is ready to suggest the CLT as an option to Amherst farmers. Women in Agriculture is excited about the oportunities the VCLT would provide for graduates of an agricultural school which they^{have} been planning. A "Yankee farmer"forester approved of the CLT concept by saying that if we could show area residents a reasonable way of settling land, that they would accept the idea. He also suggested that the VCLT consider buying woodlots for cordwood. If you know of anyone who would need cordwood on a permanent basis, you might suggest that they think of sharing the cost of land with others in the group. "It won't get cheaper."

ON TO THE AGENDA... Our next general meeting is January 26, Thursday at 7:30 at Mt. Toby Friends Meeting House, Rt. 63 in Leverett. Snow date: February 2, same place, same time. For the first hour, we'll be brainstorming money ideas; how to get it, from whom, why, etc. If the slides of the Montague farm come out, we'll see those. Then we plan to break into committees and orientation groups. The committees are doing exciting work now-that of creating new structures, guidelines, traditions-all the initial work of designing our communities.

Woolman Hill staff has asked us to announce their weekend workshop series. If you want to participate, call 773 9065 or 772 0453 for information.

Jan. 21-22..Theater Workshop - Mark Bluver of Living Poem Theater - Sat. 8:30 open performance of "Adios, Adios"

Jan. 27-29...Solar Energy - Ned Nissen, Dom Parisi, Norman Saunders, Wes Garner

Feb. 3-53 separate- Warp & Weft - Betty Steiner...Stained Glass-Jane DeRuso
High Protein Baking - Martha Ellen Katz

Feb. 24-26 ... Cuba

Mar. 3-5 - ... Middle East Conflict & Options for Peace - Joe Gerson, AFSC

Mar. 10-12 ... Non-Violence: Our Survival - Walliv Nelson