



CONNECTICUT GEOTHERMAL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

CHUCK'S STEAKHOUSE ROCKY HILL, CT

8/5/14

I ROLL CALL

Guy Wanegar

John Sima

Larry Sima

Phil Robert

Bob Polmatier

Dave Hermantin

II OFFICER REPORTS

A. TREASURER:

Ray Sima is away on vacation, but Larry Sima filled-in. There are currently 19 members signed up for the 2014/2015-membership season. The checkbook balance is at \$12,215.00. Ray has received four payments for the upcoming Workshop.

B. SECRETARY: The June 3, 2014 Secretary's report is posted on the CT Geo Website

C. PRESIDENT: Vice President, Steve Wierzbicki has resigned his position for personal reasons. We are grateful to Steve for the work he has done for the association.

III COMMITTEE HEADS: Workshop - Guy reported that WaterFurnace has signed up as the dinner sponsor for the Workshop, donating \$2,000 for the event. He has received many payments from regular attendees, in addition to the four that Ray received. Currently, approximately 40 attendees are signed up. Attendees will earn 4 Training Contact Hours, toward their IGSHPA accredited installer certification.

IV NEW BUSINESS

We need to elect a new Vice President. Please bring nominations and/or volunteer at our September meeting.

A prospective new Associate member asked whether their new membership will get them a copy of our membership list. Our bylaws do not mention anything about that. The group unanimously decided against distributing our member list.

New Hampshire has approved a means for operators of Geothermal Heat Pump systems to be paid Thermal Renewable Energy Credits for the energy that their systems extract from the earth. Homeowners, operating a typical 4-ton geothermal system, should be able to collect approximately \$500.00 per year from their electric utility.

Massachusetts Clean Energy Center is soliciting for firms to provide consulting services to evaluate and monitor geothermal heat pump systems. Guy will distribute the email announcement that he received.



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John asked the group whether our Association should join the Association of the Northeast HERS (Home Energy Rating System) Alliance. Membership would cost \$500.00 per year. Action was tabled, until we learn more about it.

Updates to the CT Geothermal Association Constitution were discussed. The 'Individual' membership category will be deleted, since the 'Corporate' category includes all persons engaged in this industry. A section will be added to acknowledge that this Association 'Affiliates' with other associations, sharing news and providing mutual support, without paying, or accepting payment of dues. Finally, references to this association as a 'chapter' will be changed to 'membership'. These proposed edits will be voted on at the September meeting.

VI OLD BUSINESS

Guy, Peter, Mark and John met with representatives from DEEP and CEFIA on June 6, arguing for incentives to promote geothermal heat pump systems. CEFIA will not be offering rebate programs, but is working on a low-interest loan offer for them. We followed up, by conference call, with CEFIA staff, and are waiting to hear details on the new loan program.

Guy attended a forum on renewable energy, sponsored by REEBA, on June 26. He had an opportunity to briefly address the group, which included the new DEEP Commissioner Rob Klee. His suggestion to consider 'energy saved', rather than just 'electricity saved', was well received by the group.

John made a brief presentation before a regular meeting of the PHCC association on June 26. The talk on geothermal heat pumps sparked some interest, but the meeting was sparsely attended.

There is no news on the new Well Drilling Code, which includes standards for geothermal heat-exchange boreholes. Larry Sima will follow up on this.

VII GENERAL BUSINESS

We will be participating in the North Central Connecticut Energy Expo, at Suffield High School, on October 4 from 9:00 to 1:00. Booth space is free.

We will be providing a technical presentation, and dinner speaker, to the CT ASHRAE general meeting in October. Doug Rothmann is working on that.

Guy is working on an opportunity for our group to make presentations at a workshop, on geothermal heat pumps, that Celebration Builders hopes to arrange in the Guilford area.

VIII ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY: John Sima