

**Connecticut Geothermal Association  
Meeting Minutes  
Chuck's Steak House, Rocky Hill, CT**

**March 1, 2016 6:30 pm**

**I ROLL CALL**

John Sima	Guy Wanegar
Peter Tavino	Ray Sima
David Ragaini	Rob Sima
Phil Robert	Larry Sima
David Hermantin	David Corcoran
Janice Wilhelm	Bill Seguin
Scot Rogers	Guest: Debbie Surabian

**GUEST PRESENTATION:** State Soil Scientist Debbie Surabian with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Tolland, CT presented a study underway to publish soil thermal conductivities to be used for horizontal loop geothermal systems. Guy Wanegar had originally noted that the draft summary sent to CGA called for low Thermal Conductivity instead of high TC. This and the metric units off by 50% compared to English units used in the industry (BTU per hour), are being revised. Debbie noted Massachusetts has a map showing regional TC values, but members noted that it could be deceiving if installers depend on it, since TC can vary greatly from soil to soil. The low TC error might have been a misinterpretation that borehole trench bedding material need not have high TC since heat is designed from the borehole only. Debbie reminded members to use the web soil survey website for soils mapping and announced a new google website: Soil Web that should be faster. Debbie reported on [stategeothermaldata.org](http://stategeothermaldata.org), but when members googled it, it was found to be hot rocks lava type geothermal used to generate electricity like out west or in Iceland, not Connecticut's moderate temperature ground source geothermal we use.

**II OFFICER REPORTS:**

**TREASURER:** Ray Sima reported a balance of \$17,117.45. \$800 insurance was paid and the members voted to pay Renewable Energy Association REEBA annual dues of \$500.

**PRESIDENT:** John Sima led discussion on these agenda items:

**Habitat Volunteer Project:** We have been monitoring the system on line, and note frequent cycling. John contacted Emme to adjust the thermostat by remote control.

**April 2 Workshop:** Registration Form Mailing went out. Matt Davis, Hubert Nolte and Madeline Priest will speak. Exhibitors will be contacted and members are urged to attend and bring guests.

**Scholarship:** The scholarship rules were discussed. Members voted to modify this sentence:

*By July 1, the awards will be presented to the winners in the form of a check or credit at selected HVAC supply house(s).* by ending the sentence at “check.”

See the rules as approved attached at the end of these minutes.

**Geothermal Survey:** Woody Weiss is working with Bob Wall from CT Green Bank. Of 28 respondents all but one was favorable. It was noted that the CT Green Bank website mentions Solar eight times and Geothermal once.

**Utility Rebate:** Awaiting Joe Swift July decision to increase rebate from \$1500 to \$3000

**April 19 & 20 NY Geo:** The president of NYSERDA will give keynote speech. John and Guy plan to attend.

**Tax credit extension:** No further word on from Doug Dougherty. Less than ten months to go. Senator Murphy sent a reply letter to John Sima.

**Comprehensive Energy Strategy:** Diane Duva and DEEP’s Katie Dykes expected to release a draft soon.

**Yale Study:** John , Peter and Jim Sansoucy met at Yale with Scientist Helle Gronli and three grad students. John presented slides. Jim distributed sample heat pump info documents. Peter discussed problems Yale is having with their failed four standing column loops only 15 feet apart, instead of proper closed loops. They plan to hydrofrac for better yield in opposition to CGA recommendation that closed loop be used instead. Peter noted that it is bad for our state industry when a spokes-organization like Yale “bad mouths” geothermal because of their own poor cost savings decisions.

**Mark Rosenbaum, Passive House Trainer** continues to dislike geothermal. Members will respond at the next opportunity.

**Shows:** Pratt & Whitney April Energy Show, Enfield Home Show near Walmart, Career Fair at Norwich High, where Jim Sansoucy and Mark Henderson are volunteering.

**Dept of Agriculture Grants:** *From the agenda:* REAP: Rural Energy America Program - Money is available by grants and guaranteed loans. Small businesses in rural areas are included! Navigate to the eligibility map from the main page - <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energysystems-energy-efficiency>.

**SECRETARY:** Peter Tavino posted February 2016 minutes to the website.

**VICE PRESIDENT** No report at this time.

The workshop at the Gallery Restaurant in Glastonbury will replace the April meeting usually held at Chuck's Steakhouse.

**VII ADJOURNMENT 8:50pm**

**MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:** Peter Tavino

## THE CONNECTICUT GEOTHERMAL ASSOCIATION COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

The Members of the Connecticut Geothermal Association hereby make this scholarship available to junior and senior students of Connecticut High School / Trade Schools, enrolled in a Heating Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) curriculum.

The Connecticut Geothermal Association Scholarship (CGACS) may be presented annually to not more than two (2) high school students, who will use the scholarship for their first year tuition expenses to further their education, or to purchase trade-related tools. Two \$500.00 scholarships will be awarded each year. The reason for the CGACS is to further the education of capable students in the HVAC field, while building awareness of the benefits of Ground Source Heating and Cooling.

**Eligibility:**

At the time of application, the individual must be a 12<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade student at a Connecticut Trade School. No more than one application may be awarded at any one school.

**Application:**

Complete applications are to be submitted by pdf file to the Connecticut Geothermal Association Scholarship College Program email office for receipt by May 10 of the year of award at [ctgeothermalscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:ctgeothermalscholarship@gmail.com). Application must include:

- (1) The completed and signed [application form](#).
- (2) A brief statement by the applicant on plans for continuing his or her education or continuing into the HVAC trade and why an award should be made to him or her.
- (3) An official transcript.
- (4) Applicant's resume.
- (5) ) A separate sealed confidential letter of recommendation by a Technology Department Teacher.
- (6) A short essay on one of the following subjects:
  - 1 – The importance of accurate heat loss calculations, and correct heating/cooling sizing;
  - 2 – How to promote public awareness, and how to bring geothermal heat pumps to homeowners and businesses; or
  - 3 – The benefits of geothermal heat pump technology to our environment.

**Selection:**

Selection is made by the CGACS Committee for recommendation to the Executive Board, for final approval.

Selection is based on appraisal of the content of the application.

All application requirements must be fulfilled. Incomplete applications will not be considered. All CGACS committee deliberations will be in private.

**Awards:**

Recipients and non- awarded applicants and their High Schools/ Trade

Schools will be notified of selection by June 10 by the President of the Connecticut Geothermal Association.

The amount of the scholarship will be determined annually by and subject to approval of the Executive Board of the CGA based on dues income. In 2016, two \$500.00 CGACS awards will be offered.

By July 1, the awards will be presented to the winners in the form of a check.

**Deadline:**

Both applicant and teacher emails must be received by May 10.  
Submit all 7 items by email to: [ctgeothermalscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:ctgeothermalscholarship@gmail.com) *end.*