



BRIDGING THE GAP

The Quaker Intentional Village Project Newsletter

Issue #12 (July 2002): New York Yearly Meeting Special Edition

The Latest News

Progress continues toward our intentional community in Columbia County, New York, near Powell House. We have been touring some houses in the area to give ourselves ideas for the design of our own houses. Together we are beginning to envision the types of houses we want to build on the land. The QIVP-Columbia County Land Committee has solicited proposals from eight architects who are interested in working on our houses and/or common house, and this summer we are working on choosing among them.

We are planning on demolishing the old farmhouse and rebuilding our Common House on its foundations—that will be our first big building project, and we are leaning towards doing a lot the design and some of the construction ourselves.

Currently we have four member households, who have been through our clearness process, and two other households very involved and close to becoming members. We also continue to receive interest and support from our “attenders,” who want to be involved yet don’t have plans to move into our community in the near future. One of our member families is moving to the immediate area this summer.

A fox has made a den on our open hillside, almost right in the middle of our 135 acres. Maybe it’s a message from George!

QIVP, Inc:

QIVP, Inc., is close to becoming an official 501(c)(3). QIVP, Inc. is the overarching non-profit entity that has been formed to help Friends move towards a life lived according to the five principles (see the back of this newsletter). Our hope is that eventually there will be a network of Quaker villages in different places, urban, suburban and rural, that all work together within the umbrella organization to live according to the five principles. Thus the work of the “umbrella” group is to spread the word about our leadings regarding living a more God-centered, village-like, environmentally sound, economically responsible, service-filled and fun life. To do this we have formed the non-profit entity QIVP, Incorporated. Donations are welcome! And will soon be tax-deductible.

Next Meetings of QIVP:

- Saturday, August 3rd, 10:00 to 2:00, on the land in East Chatham
- Saturday, August 3 starting promptly at 2:00: Open House on the land
- Saturday, September 7th, 10:00 to 4:00, on the land
- Sunday, October 6, 2:00 to 6:00, on the land

Levels of Commitment to QIVP

Members and Prospective Members: Those cleared for membership or in the process of clearness who are ready to build a house on the land in the relatively near future. Members are expected to participate in meetings regularly and help make decisions about the project. Individuals and families initially contribute a minimum of \$500 per household to attain prospective-member status, and are also assessed an annual fee to cover ongoing costs while the project is being developed. Fees are for communications/outreach and project start-up expenses including property taxes.

Attendees: Those who are very interested in contributing their time and skills, but are not yet ready to be members. Attendees are expected to participate in meetings regularly and help make decisions. Attendees contribute a minimum of \$50 per year per household, which helps cover communications and outreach, with the remainder going to the village in which they are contemplating membership.

Supporters: Those who are interested in the project but do not expect to become members, and whose level of interest or geographic location is such that they do not expect to attend meetings or help make decisions. Supporters contribute a minimum of \$20 per year per household, which helps cover communications and outreach.

Don't Forget Our Web Site! Lots of information for the curious is at ***www.qivp.org***

We believe community can be a means to advance the following five objectives:

1. To increase the mindfulness, spiritual focus and God-centeredness of our lives by finding and living near others who share these goals and thus will reinforce, on a daily basis, our desire to live in worship.
2. To strengthen our family life both by creating a "village" setting in which to raise our and others' children, and by caring for our elders. This includes an emphasis on leaving behind cultural obstacles that interfere with providing the time and energy that healthy family life requires.
3. To examine carefully our participation in the national/international consumer economy and begin to build the critical mass necessary for viable business networks and sources of goods and services more appropriate to our Quaker testimonies.
4. To focus on a lifestyle that is environmentally sound and that attempts to give back to our planet as much as is taken from it.
5. To include a good measure of joy, fun, outreach, and service in our lives as we strive to meet the first four objectives.

We believe that our communities' success in achieving these five objectives will be aided by memberships diverse in race, age, ethnicity, sexual preference, and economic situations, and therefore it is our aim to gather communities whose members are diverse in these ways as well as others.