

Update

Note our finalized logo above.

Many thanks to Masey for the beautiful design.

All the elements of the universe have converged over Greensward Hamlet to move it forward. Financing is in the works for Building A, which will be built this winter for occupancy next summer. Building A is the two-story building that contains a 3 bedroom with a 500 sf auxiliary unit (my home), a 3 bedroom, a 2 bedroom, a 920 sf one-bedroom end unit on 1st floor and a 720 sf one-bedroom end unit on 2nd floor. We considered full basements for all units except the 720 sf one, but in the end decided against it because it would add about \$25,000 to each unit. We are also exploring the possibility of using double insulated wood walls instead of the ICF, again to keep prices down (the price of concrete has gone up significantly in the past two years) but also because these walls have proven as effective, or more effective, than ICF. They have R-40 insulation rating compared to R-26 for ICF. We are assured they can achieve the same soundproof rating with these walls as with ICF. We are getting prices now so we can compare and make an informed decision. Let me know your thoughts about this change.

I have interviewed new builders and picked Elwood Robbins who brings 30 years of building experience and many resources. We have met with the architects to finalize the changes and details for Building A. Elwood has re-priced the building with the changes and is now repricing it with more changes to keep prices down without compromising the integrity of the building. Prices for some materials have started to go up, some are less expensive. Some the changes we are considering are:

- Double insulated wood walls rather than ICF

- No basements

- Standard roof on the garages rather than the curved roofs.

- Spruce or fir planks for the 2nd story floor rather than Bamboo.





Peter and Nick Pinkham of Buxton, will do the site development. They have done site work for me before, including a labyrinth and a stone circle. They do a great job and enjoy the creative aspects of site construction. They are very respectful of mother earth, and conscious of preserving our resources. They also have a good working relationship with the town zoning board, code enforcement officer, road commissioner, and recycling center of Buxton. We can trust them to do the work according to DEP, LEED, town standards, and their own high standards.



Blowing in the Wind

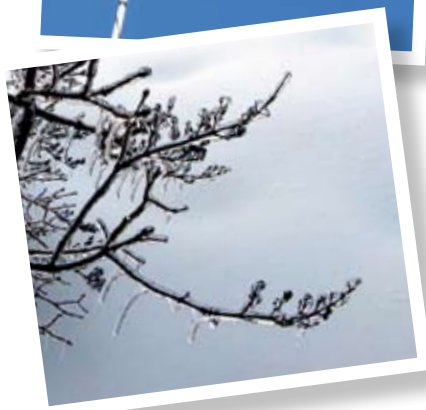
Monitoring the wind has been a challenge because of my own challenges in using the software. But the monitor is still standing straight and collecting that data. As soon as I get the chance, I will go download that data and analyze it. It is a task I will happily hand over to someone else. I'm learning that the exact spot for wind turbines is crucial, and that even 20 ft distance can make a big difference in its efficiency.



Global Connections

Our hearts are hurting for the people of Haiti and we must step up to the plate to do what we can to help them. Our prayers are needed for their healing and our financial assistance for their recovery.

Being a Red Cross Disaster Mental Health volunteer, I have a strong bias about which organization to send donations. The American Red Cross and International Red Cross provide shelters, water, food, and emergency financial assistance to help them survive until other agencies can put their services in place for the survivors. It is heart-wrenching to hear the stories and see the images of the Haiti disaster, but we are not helpless to help. Please send money to the American Red Cross or another organization that you trust. And if you possibly can, sign up to do volunteer work with the American Red Cross. Even if you cannot deploy to major disasters, there is much you can do locally.



Members/Friends

EQUITY MEMBERS – buyers/owners. \$1,000 membership fee and \$100 a month until closing. The money will be applied to the down payment of the purchase.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – potential buyers. \$100 membership fee each year. Associate members can participate and have input in all planning and activities of the community. Associate members have no voting privileges and will pay a nominal fee for attending community activities and events, and will be encouraged to participate in work days, as these activities are integral opportunities for community building.

FRIENDS of Greensward Hamlet – Friends and family of community members who want to be part of the community and participate in community activities, events and work days. There is no membership fee for “friends” but they will be charged a nominal fee for community activities and events. They are welcome to participate in workdays.

In this section, we feature new members and friends. At this point, we have many friends and two equity members: myself and Toni Morrison.

Francoise Paradis. I am eager to get settled in a community of like-minded people with whom I can share time, ideas, projects, and resources to make life easier and meaningful. Greensward Hamlet is the largest and most challenging project I have ever undertaken, and I look forward to enjoying the fruits of my labor and energy. I bring my energy, gardening skills, organizational skills, and communication skills to the community.

Toni Morrison. Toni is an aspiring artist and writer, taking classes at Main College of Art. She is hoping to organize and manage a library of books, DVDs and CDs for the community. Toni also loves to create movies from photos and has already started to document the activities at Greensward Hamlet.

Roland, Cindy, Lucas, and Lance Paradis are active friends of the community. Roland is my dear nephew and Cindy worked as my assistant for a few years when I was working full-time at my practice of psychology. Two years ago Roland and Cindy decided to stop using fossil fuels to heat their home and installed a wood burning boiler. They use wood that needs to be cut down, so I was happy to have them help us out by cutting out the road. This is the second summer they cut, but they have not made a dent in what needs to be cut down to put in the road and the buildings. This year Roland’s younger brother, Tommy, has been cutting as well.

Lucas and Lance are two nature boys, as you can see from the photos. I love going to visit when they are cutting wood. Lucas and Lance have taken me on treks to explore the woodlands and to find the boundary markers.



Website

A new website is in the works and should be on line sometime in February. I apologize for not keeping the old website updated. When Verizon was bought out by Fairpoint, I could not get their web design program to work even with the help of tech support. So we are having a website built by a professional.

If you are planning to continue your association with Greensward Hamlet as an equity or associate member, please send a photo and a brief bio for the next newsletter and for the website if you would like.

Mindfulness Tips

Winter is a good time to contemplate and take action to conserve our natural resources. An easy way to do this is by turning down thermostats and wearing extra layers of clothes to stay warm. Our bodies will adjust and we'll live longer with fewer wrinkles. Every gallon of fossil fuel we don't use, takes us one more step toward freedom from the tyranny of oil companies and hostile countries.

Thich Nhat Hanh, the great Zen Master and founder of Engaged Buddhism, said that the severe condition of our planet due to global warming has become a moral issue. But he is, as always, optimistic and trusts the goodness of humans.

“With collective insight we can reconcile with and heal our planet. Each of us can do something in our own daily lives to contribute, to ensure that a future is possible for the next generation.”

We know from sociological research and spiritual practice that groups and communities – collectives – are more capable of effecting dramatic changes than are individuals alone. The power of group energy that is directed with a clear intention can create miracles. And that is what we need now – miracles to stop the demise of our planet and to transform the thinking of the skeptics who still utter statements like “I don't believe in global warming;” “Humans are not responsible for global warming.” “Nothing I can do will make a difference.” “Why should I give up any of what I've worked so hard for!” This is a time for suppressing the individual ego and acting on behalf of the greater good.

Breathing in, I focus my energy.

Breathing out, I heal myself.

Breathing in, I focus my energy.

Breathing out, I heal the earth.

Breathing in together, we focus our energy.

Breathing out together, we heal ourselves.

Breathing in together, we focus our energy.

Breathing out together, we heal our planet.



Now is the Moment of Power!

Now is the time to join the community and get 5% off the sale price of your new home. This offer is good until April 1st. Come to the next meeting on Saturday, January 23 at 10 a.m. at my office at 110 Main St. in Saco or contact me ASAP at 207-227-3678.

\$1,000 Reward!

Please tell your friends and families about Greensward Hamlet and bring them to a meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 23 at my office at 110 Main Street, Saco, to learn more and to see the plans. If you refer someone who decides to purchase a home at Greensward Hamlet, you will get a \$1,000 reward on the day of their closing. This offer is good until all the homes are sold.

Next community meeting:

10 a.m. Saturday, January 23

110 Main Street, Saco

RSVP: 207-227-3678 or feparadis48@yahoo.com

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Basements?

Wood versus concrete walls?

Flooring

Garden: raised beds - concrete vs logs; 12" vs 36"

Photovoltaic? Wind turbine?

Please let me know if there are other items you would like to discuss.

Respectfully submitted,
Francoise Paradis
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207-227-3678

Francoise

