

8/26/2006

Friends,

We have long wanted to start a co-housing (see explanation below) community in VT and have recently purchased 100 acres in Guilford VT just 15 minutes from downtown Brattleboro which will enable us to start the Sweet Pond Eco-community. The land is lovely rolling farmland, woods, large pond and stream. In winter views stretch 30 m south over hills to Massachusetts. The land is only 10 miles from I-91 and is reached via driving through farmland and ponds. Guildford Center, only a mile away, is the nearest town, if you can call a library, church, grange hall and town office a town. Guilford is locally famous for its county fair and its organ festival. We feel this offers the best in quiet country living with nearby Brattleboro offering bookstores and music stores, a nationally recognized microbrewery, coffee roasters, food co-op, and lots of music and theater etc. Weather is mild in the Connecticut River Valley, yet we are one hour away from Mt Stratton to the North and Mt Snow to the West.

We hope to build 7 housing units in the Apple Orchard which has a pond/mountain view. So we are writing to our friends in hopes that some of you would like to join the Sweet Pond Eco-Community. We are currently investigating the most environmentally effective building designs and installation of solar and/or wind power production. Having a beautiful place where people want to be good neighbors and intentionally form a community seems like an important way to plan for the future. We will be designing with the needs of aging population in mind, wheel chair accessible, low maintenance, etc. We also want to develop this in an environmental and community friendly way. Plans are to preserve the view for our neighbors and roadside. We are determining how to put 40-50 acres of the wooded land with the Land Trust or a nature conservation program while retaining walking access to the acreage. Houses will be built so as not to be visible from the road. Additionally, we have set aside land for organic farming and are seeking organic farmers to join the community.

So please let us know if you are potentially interested in a home at Sweet Pond. If you are interested we will send you information as the plan develops. Please DO pass this on to other people that you think might be interested. Come visit this fall and see what neighbors tell us is one of the most spectacular views in the northeast!

Making dreams for a better future come true!

Zoe and T