

## *Electric Meeting August 26, 2009*

- August 26, 2009 was the first meeting of the ‘all electric’ people. Approximately 50 people attended and another 15-20 called saying they couldn’t make it but were very interested and want to be updated. **I have heard from many people since the meeting and they are spreading the word.**
- It is estimated that there are 300 units in here that are electric. As of August 26, there are 49 FW condos on the market of which 2/3rds are “all electric”.
- We were also reminded that this is a residential community with a golf course and not a golf course with condos. We need to do what is best for the majority of people while being open to all ideas.
- We opened the meeting by asking people to raise their hands regarding their electric bills - - many raised and kept their hands raised through \$500/month - - Some people kept their hands up through \$800 and the highest was \$1100/month.
- We developed a Street captain list.
  - Kay Olsen – 860-673-2740 - - spiritofhartford@msn.com
  - Mary Ellen Quinn- - 860-675-0819 - - Great Meadow
  - Patty and Paul Sheltz - - 860-673-5116- - Crocus
  - Pam Schreibman - - 839-3254 - - Heritage
  - Gail Standish – 860-404-0405 - - Mallard
  - Barbara Kenwood - - 675-0123 - -Mallard
- Also in attendance were:
  - The State Rep for Farmington – Demetrios Gennarios - - he and his team are taking this very seriously and are exploring ways to help us.
  - Marty Kaplan – part of the Avon Clean Energy Committee
  - Jonathan Standish – VP FW Master Association Board

**We broke the meeting into three parts - -**

### **Things that are easy to do around your condo and not very expensive**

- Energy Audit - **Competitive Resources** will do an Energy Audit – It usually costs \$75 but, through September 25, 2009 they are offering it to FW residents for \$50. It takes 2-3 hours, you need to have cleaned out the fireplace and emptied under the sinks. They will caulk, change lightbulbs and other things. They will also bring coupons and rebates depending on what you need. - 888-403-3500
- Other ideas are - - - changing the electric supply - goes thru CL&P  
Levco/Dominion - - 800-400-5574  
Positive Energy - - 772-485-0818  
Con-Ed
- CEAP – CT Energy Assistance Program – [www.ct.gov/dss](http://www.ct.gov/dss)

- Operation Fuel – [www.operationfuel.org](http://www.operationfuel.org) – will help gas and electric people if on fixed incomes. Please check out sites for more information.
- Contact CL&P to double check charges and if you would like get yourself on a budget plan to make it easier.

**Things you can do around your condo that are somewhat expensive and may reduce your electric bill.**

- Replace various appliances. Appliances older than 10 years old are considered less efficient than the new ‘energy star’ types. In addition there are rebates and a new ‘cash for clunkers’ program is supposed to go into effect shortly.
- Baseboard electric was discussed and some indicated they have seen reductions in their electric bill due to the change from radiant to baseboard. This can be done by an licensed electrician. Several people asked the name of an electrician and Kay recommended Chris Pullis of CAPCO – his phone is 860-777-5282

The Green Team has developed a list of vendors and you can find them in the various articles in the IN THE WOODS - - **Don’t forget to go thru Design Review.**

- Rogers Sash and Door - windows, etc.– 860-666-5623
- Turner Exteriors - -windows etc. - 860 262-1700
- Renewal by Anderson - windows -800-428-6438
- Ductworks - - HVAC / hot water tanks - 860-628-6568
- All American - - HVAC / hot water tanks - 203-879-4929
- Magnitite – magnetized interior storm windows
- Insulation – There are various ways to further insulate your homes. **It is critical however, that in this case, you check with FW before work is done for safety.**
- Heat pumps were discussed and a couple of people who have installed them indicated that the heat pumps had already reduced the electric bills. Ductworks and All American have information on this type of alternative.

**More Expensive and longer term potential solutions**

Below are some ideas that need further exploration. No one was more accepted than another and all need further investigation.

- It was agreed that we would go to the FWMA Board meeting on Monday to let the Board know what was discussed.
  - Ask for assistance from the Board, FW and Public Works
- Go to CL&P and ask for options
  - Budget program // they have assistance for people on fixed incomes
  - Baseboard must be better than radiant in ceiling
  - Radiant in floor
  - Need to talk to the President of CL&P
  - Rumor has it that CL&P offered a deal when FW was first built. We need to find out more about this and why is went away – FW Board?

- Go to CNG and ask for options
  - They originally were interested and then we found out they had done a study a couple of years ago and the presumed cost was \$1.5 million
  - Dan Pompei – 35 Crocus indicated during a phone call with CNG that there was interest from CNG depending on the number of units interested. **Since the meeting, the local news indicated that Natural Gas cost is the lowest it has been since 2002.**
  - There was also discussion regarding where would people install the gas furnaces in their condos for this type of change.
  
- Ask for help from towns of Farmington / Avon – Marty Kaplan indicated that the town of Avon was doing some things regarding alternatives
  
- Go to the state – Demetrios Gennarios team has been providing some information that we need to further explore
  
- Pellet stoves - - This needs town approval and DRC approval. Someone mentioned that Heritage Woods condos have had several fires because of these stoves. In addition, the pellet bags weigh 40 lbs and could be too heavy for some to carry and also, where would the pellets be stored.
  
- Wind – There is new technology and some say the North East is a good place for this option. There is a company here in northeast Connecticut that could provide more insight into this option. Some people in attendance were golfers and said they would not be adverse to this option.
  
- Solar - There was good discussion regarding this alternative and it needs to be investigated. [www.ctsolarlease.com](http://www.ctsolarlease.com) is the website. Conversation revolved around putting on flat roofs and what about a central area for all of FW. More needs to be discussed. **What if we put the panels only on the garages – reduces worry of damaging unit roofs.**
  
- Other items briefly discussed include Calorique – new company that does ceiling radiant heat, new windows that have solar power as part of the window, Propane, Community recirculating system and a community loop. All of which need more information.