



Finding Common Ground July, 2020

UP FRONT

At Common Ground Ecovillage, our Principles and Intentions (P&I's) are foundational, expressing our values and undergirding our plans and actions. **At this time of explosive awareness of systemic racism in our culture**, we share this **call for change** with you:

P&I 28: We are committed to working for racial equity & for social & environmental justice.

We acknowledge racism in ourselves and in our society, and seek to overcome its harmful legacy in our relationships, our country, and on the land. Aspiring to create a racially inclusive community, we recognize that we can only achieve this goal by addressing our own racism and by working for racial justice. Aspiring to create a sustainable community, we recognize that true sustainability requires achieving harmony and justice – making ourselves a “beloved community” – both ecologically and socially.

These are not just words, but **deeply held commitments** centrally located in our vision. They recognize that we are all implicated in systematic racial prejudice and patterns of privilege that are often invisible yet nonetheless pervasive, powerful and destructive. At CGEV, we offer workshops and resources to **raise awareness of systemic racism and open windows to action**. We'll be sharing more pathways with you soon.

In the meantime, our WEEKLY READING GROUP on **WHITE FRAGILITY: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism**, by Robin Diangelo, is a great step to take—join us **every Tuesday from 6:30-7:30pm** via Zoom. But please watch this video first: [White Fragility, by Robin Diangelo](#). See our calendar listing for details, and **RSVP to Maria** for a Zoom link. Let's learn to see—and speak up—together.

COMMON GROUND CALENDAR



Aspiring, still reaching...

Banner above: Spotted Wintergreen confab

GET INVOLVED!

We hope that you will feel inspired to join us in this coming year! Our Circle leaders would be very happy to talk with and guide you as you become more involved. Contact any of the leaders listed below.

Note: all events are open to everyone unless otherwise indicated, and Zoom teleconferencing & child care are available for most Circle meetings upon request.

*Observers are encouraged and **RSVP is essential!***

PLANNING, DESIGN, & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

Wednesday, July 1, 6:30-8:00pm, via Zoom

RSVP Anthony: weston@elon.edu

Observers are always welcome, with RSVP

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to Lisa Berley for connecting with the *News of Orange*! Please share this article link widely!
http://www.newsoforange.com/community/article_f4a99d6-b6e6-11ea-978a-93648078615b.html

“Meet and Greets” at Common Ground

Know anyone who wants to know more about CGEV? Membership & Marketing has started a **series of informal conversations**, talking with new people about the meaning of community and giving a brief history of Common Ground. We’ll also be offering more detailed information sessions to get people up to speed with where we are now, what’s next, and how they can get involved. Interested? The next one is **July 8th via Zoom**—see the calendar for details. **Thanks for sending interested folks our way!**

Land Stewardship: The General Circle has consented to our pole barn project, much of the needed funding has been donated, and work has begun in the form of tree-clearing and site prep. **Want to step up and join the building team?** Contact Jeffry:
seeingstarsfarm@gmail.com



Nell and the golden beets

Financial & Legal: Wow! We asked you to contribute all or part of your “Economic Stimulus Payment” to the pole barn project and were really heartened by your response. More funds are needed and **it’s not too late to contribute!** This Circle is SO CRUCIAL to the future of CGEV and we are woefully understaffed. If you are interested in contributing to the ongoing (exciting!) work relating to financing our cooperative community, you are encouraged to contact Paul:
voss@hawkweed.net. It just takes willingness to

CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY and the INTERNATIONAL DAY of COOPERATIVES

Saturday, July 4, 5:00 to 7:00 pm, on the land (Rain date: Sunday July 5, same time)

RSVP by THURSDAY, JULY 2, to Marilyn:

marilyngrubbs@gmail.com

Want to have FUN??? (Organized with masks and social distancing in mind???) Just relax and hang out? Come on over and sit around the fire circle, grill stuff and toast marshmallows, play games, sing songs, blow bubbles, and learn something about COOPERATIVES with our very own puzzle master.

RSVP is ESSENTIAL for details—address, directions, what to bring/wear, and all that good stuff! And there’s a LIMIT on attendance, so first come, first served.

WORK DAY ON THE LAND

Sunday, July 5, 8:30am-1:30pm (with face masks and social distancing)

Contact Jeffry for details: seeingstarsfarm@gmail.com

LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

Sunday, July 5, 2:30-4:30pm

Cedar Pavilion on the land (or via Zoom if weather does NOT permit—*watch for last-minute changes*)

RSVP Jeffry: seeingstarsfarm@gmail.com

We will practice social distancing and be wearing face masks. We’ll decide on our next workday at the meeting. Guests are welcome with RSVP.

RACIAL AWARENESS WEEKLY READING/SHARING CIRCLE

Tuesdays, July 7, 14, 21, 28, 6:30-7:30pm via Zoom

Sponsored by the Membership & Marketing Circle

RSVP Maria for more information and a link:

mariasilviapini@gmail.com

*A group of CGEV members & non-members are meeting weekly to read **WHITE FRAGILITY: Why It’s***

learn, although a bit of business or financial acumen wouldn't be amiss. Don't be shy!

Planning, Design, & Development: PDD continues focused efforts to "Raising Sights:"

[Water Independence:](#) We are wrapping up our survey of options for this, getting into the nitty-gritty of regulatory requirements, and complex and not wholly reliable comparative cost data, but we're on it!

[Core Building Materials:](#) We are delighted to report that we have narrowed our options to two—both mainly plant-based, locally sourced or possibly even from our own land. One is straw bale walls; the other "hemcrete"—shredded hemp-stalks mixed with a lime binder, a new and exciting method/product. These materials could be combined and would allow a good deal of do-it-yourself involvement without a lot of skill required. Both also have a distinctively earthy look and seem to best express our regenerative intentions. We are still gathering data—not easy to come by, as both methods are still definitely non-traditional today—and we're beginning to consider prototypes and demonstration builds. Stay tuned!

[Energy Independence:](#) We're aiming to create our own photovoltaic-based electrical grid and disconnect (mostly) from grid power. After doing our own research, we have been **seeking a professional consultant's help**; but finding the right person has been tricky. Again, still at it. **Know anyone?**

[Master development plan:](#) The General Circle asked us to look at alternatives to our approved plan just to get a sense of alternative options. PDD's commitment continues to be to the current development plan, potentially with the phased-build option that is now taking shape. A preliminary report will be discussed by GC in a special meeting in mid-July, and then the whole community is invited to the **First Saturday in August event** where PDD and Financial & Legal will present their ideas and ask for your input.



Ginormous red beet from the farm

so Hard for White People to Talk About Racism, by Robin Diangelo. *We read and think aloud together about racism as a "system" within and around us instead of something we either are or are not. As the first step to dismantling racism, we are helping each other to focus our attention on the ways in which this system manifests in us personally, in our community, and in all collectives we are part of.*

NEW! MEET & GREET

Wednesday, July 8, 7:00-8:00pm via Zoom

Designed for people who have recently heard about us, or who just want to meet other new members. We'll get to know each other and review some basics about CGEV. Interested?

RSVP Hope for a zoom link: hopematrix@fastmail.com

MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING CIRCLE

Thursday, July 9, 6:30-9:00pm via Zoom

RSVP Marilyn: marilyngrubbs@gmail.com

Contact Marilyn a few days before the date to receive the Zoom link and agenda/attachments. Observers are welcome with RSVP.

PLANNING, DESIGN, & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

Sunday, July 12, possible dinner meeting, 6-8:30pm

RSVP Anthony: weston@elon.edu

Observers are always welcome, with RSVP

FINANCIAL & LEGAL CIRCLE

Thursday, July 16, 6:30-9:00pm, via Zoom

RSVP Paul for a link: voss@hawkweed.net

We welcome visitors, especially those who may wish to join this important circle.

NEW! CRASH COURSE IN CGEV

Sunday, July 19, 4:00-5:30pm via Zoom

Want an overview of where CGEV is now, what's next,

IN THE KNOW...

Have you read/seen/heard something inspiring lately that you'd like to share with the community? Please send in your recommendations to [Hope](#).

Marilyn offers a YouTube video series, [Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man](#), by Emmanuel Acho. In the first one, he introduces the project to white people. Subsequent sessions involve conversations with white people. Each one is 10 to 13 minutes long. Well worth a listen: click here for part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8jUA7JBkF4>

LOCAL EVENTS TO EXPAND OUR SOCIAL & CULTURAL HORIZONS

Is something happening that you want our members to know about? Please send your listing to Hope by the 25th of each month.

Racial Equity Institute Training

Sponsored by Organizing Against Racism (OAR) We **strongly recommend** these 2-day trainings as a way to begin a shared conversation about racism and social/environmental justice at Common Ground Ecovillage. Check [OARalliance.org](#) for details.

Compassionate Connection (aka Non-Violent Communication): Wednesday, July 22, 7:00 to 8:30 pm via Zoom. Facilitated by Lila Rosa and Marilyn Grubbs; contact marilyngrubbs@gmail.com for information.



Day-glo bee balm; cucumber blossom on right

and how you can get involved and contribute? This session is for YOU!

Contact Hope for a link: hopematrix@fastmail.com

GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

Tuesday, July 21, 4:00pm – 6:00pm via Zoom

RSVP Hope: hopematrix@fastmail.com

Please RSVP for a link. If this time is difficult for you, please contact hope.

PLANNING, DESIGN, & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

Wednesday, July 22, 6:30-8:00pm, via Zoom

RSVP Anthony: weston@elon.edu

Observers are always welcome, with RSVP

GENERAL CIRCLE

Thursday, July 23, 7:00-9:30pm, via Zoom

RSVP Hope: hopematrix@fastmail.com

We welcome observers, with RSVP

LAST FIRST SATURDAY

Saturday, August 1, 3:00-6:00pm, venue TBA

RSVP Anthony: Weston@elon.edu

PDD and Finance & Legal Circles will jointly present an overview of our development and financing progress, featuring a plan for phased development which involves taking up a potentially game-changing and generous matching-fund challenge by an anonymous member. We will also have occasion to discuss fallback development plans—a question that arose out of the May and June “Big Conversation” involving both General Circle and the wider membership. Plenty of time for Q&A also. Come, find out, and discuss the latest! Bring your wallets! (just kidding... or not).



