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Public Meetings

Monthly meetings provide updates on our project, a chance to meet members, and often a mini-workshop on an aspect of our mission.

Belfast Public Library
2nd Sunday of the month
1:00-2:00 Newcomers
2:00-4:00pm Everyone

May 15 (John Abrams!)
June 8
July 13

Details & information? Contact Us!

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➔ FORWARD TO
A FRIEND

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Open House Sunday Sept 14th in Belfast

Project Update ~ 16 Equity Households!
What we've been working on, where we're headed, and how you can get involved

Coho Experts Help Us Plan

[Nat'l Cohousing Conference...coming again in June!](#)

Waltham MA last June ~ Seattle WA THIS June 24-28, 2009

[Our Mission and Vision](#)

Sustainable, affordable, farm preservation, smart growth


[Membership Information](#)

Friends, Exploring, and Equity Member levels available

Greetings!

It's been a while since our first ENews went out to you all, but we've been mightily busy. We've planted gardens, pruned and harvested fruit trees, kept our day jobs intact, played with kids, family and friends, enjoyed summer in Maine, and ... attended lots of cohousing meetings!

We've made great progress in the past 6 months that we want to share with you, so read on. And if you're considering being part of this community, we encourage you to join as an Exploring Member soon to be involved in designing the social and physical fabric of our neighborhood --starting this fall!



Hope to see you soon!
Sanna

Monthly Public Meeting

John Abrams

Thursday evening, **May 15th** from 7-9pm
Univ of Maine, Hutchinson Ctr, **Belfast**
(land walk from 6-7pm)

Come spend an hour with John and get all your cohousing questions answered. As the designer (South Mountain Company), builder, developer and, later, resident of Island Cohousing on Martha's Vineyard, John has a deep knowledge of creating affordable housing, including the cohousing neighborhood he developed. See Cohousing Conference for more info on John.

The talk will be preceded by an update on our own Belfast project, what we've decided, where we're headed, and what we need before the end of June to make this property "home."

National Cohousing Conference comes to New England

(this info taken directly from their website)

Pre-conference workshops

THURSDAY 1 - 4 PM

Diana Leafe Christian: Antidotes to Five Common Sources of Community Conflict
Mark Kelly: Green Building: Agenda for Sustainable Priorities
Laird Schaub & Ma'ikwe Ludwig: The Essentials of Dynamic Facilitation
Jonathan Klein: Survey of Legal Issues for Cohousing

FRIDAY 8:30 - 11:30 AM

Katie McCamant & Jim Leach: Best Practices in Project Management
Jerry Koch-Gonzalez: Non-Violent Communication
Mary Kraus & Laura Fitch: Common House Design Workshop
Zev & Neshama Paiss: Developing Cohousing Communities

FRIDAY 1 - 4 PM

Cohousing Collaborative: The Cohousing Timeline Game
Chris ScottHanson & Laura Fitch: The Right Site
Kristen Gardner: Keeping The Flame: Tools for Living and Growing Together
Chuck Durrett & Ruben Liebhaber: Aging in Cohousing

2008 Keynote Speaker

We're excited to welcome John Abrams, founding member and resident of [Island Cohousing](#) in Martha's Vineyard, as our keynote speaker. John is co-founder and CEO of South Mountain Company, an employee-owned design-build firm. He chairs two nonprofits - the Island Housing Trust and the Island Affordable Housing Fund - and speaks often on affordability issues, socially responsible business and ecological building issues. John's book [The Company We Keep](#) explores "the role of business in preserving and restoring local culture, social equity and ecological balance." To learn more about John's company, visit the South Mountain Company [website](#).

Conference Presentations include

Working with Non-Profit Developers to Create Affordable Rental Cohousing	The Good, the Bad...and the Ugliest (developers' panel discussion)
Managing the Design Process	Developer Driven Cohousing
"Fair Share" - Getting the Work Done	Cohousing and Deep Democracy
Common Sense Sustainable Site Development	Getting a Zero Carbon Footprint
Incorporating "European Passive Houses" in a Belgium Cohousing Neighborhood	Environmental Design in Cohousing in the Northeast US
Green Design: Comparative Community Case Studies	Building Great Websites for Cohousing Communities and Professionals
Using Humor In Facilitation & Conflict Resolution	Group Process Skills for Committees
Living With Diversity	Aging in Community Successfully
A Retrospective of Danish Cohousing	Sociocracy: Dynamic Self-Governance
Songaia...An Unfolding Dream	In Cohousing, Less Stress Equals More Fun!
Talkers vs. Doers: How Personalities Affect Decision Making Processes	

[Click here](#) to look over the preliminary schedule of the preconference activities!

Sunday Self Directed Open Forums

If you can stay awhile, we have reserved space on Sunday afternoon to accommodate groups that may want to meet a little longer. These can be groups with a common interest found at the conference, regional gatherings, forming group gatherings, special topic interests - ideas can and will continue to develop through the conference, and a limited amount of space will be available for informal gatherings.

Project Update

Who we are now

We now number 15 Exploring Members and 11 Planning Members (representing 17 households) ranging from families with kids (and farms), to seniors and single adults.

Our mailing list grew from 150 to 210 interested people from California to England and Georgia to Missouri (but mostly from New England). And we're at our first big threshold so common to cohousing developments: Buying the Land. Here's when we find out how many households are ready to leap into cohousing. (But never fear, we'll need households to join in all along the way! It just costs less if you commit earlier.)

What we've been working on

Met with:

- Cohousing development consultant John Ryan
- Coastal Mountains Land Trust (on land preservation options)
- Maine Farmland Trust (on easements)
- Friends of Midcoast Maine (regional smart growth organization)
- Coastal Enterprises, Inc (for development assistance)
- A HUD representative (on affordability)
- Cohousing development consultant Zev Paiss
- Two serious farm couples interested in CSAs on the property
- G+O Logic (our design/build team), who solicited "program" design elements for the houses
- Three separate landscape architecture firms to start the site planning process
- College of the Atlantic Land Use Planning Class (site inventory)
- And several thriving pond communities in search of the elusive vernal pools so we make sure not to build near them!

Where we're headed (upcoming work)

- Find one more major "buy/hold" investor for the Land Acquisition LLC to get the farm off the market (have 2, need 3)
- *Membership Outreach*
- Finalize legal and financial documents for Cohousing Development LLC and Land Acquisition LLC
- *Membership Outreach*
- Decide and write the by-laws and governance policy for the condo association, including does our name use *cohousing*, or *ecovillage*?
- *Membership Outreach*
- Hire landscape architect for site inventory/analysis, community layout (that perfect mix of private/public, solar, edible landscapes, etc!)
- *Membership Outreach*
- Hire engineers for infrastructure design and permitting

- *Membership Outreach*
- Design the Common House (late this summer?)
- *Membership Outreach*
- Finalize the house designs
- *Membership Outreach*
- All Winter--Permitting, approvals, financing
- **Reservations for all 30 homes by April 15, 2009**
- Spring 2009--Break ground
- Summer and Fall 2009--Construction
- December 2009--Move In!
- THEN the fun begins!

How you can get involved

Join as a member so we get to know each other

Help with Member Outreach--we have much to do in this arena

Contribute your time, money or expertise and watch it blossom!

Our Mission and Vision

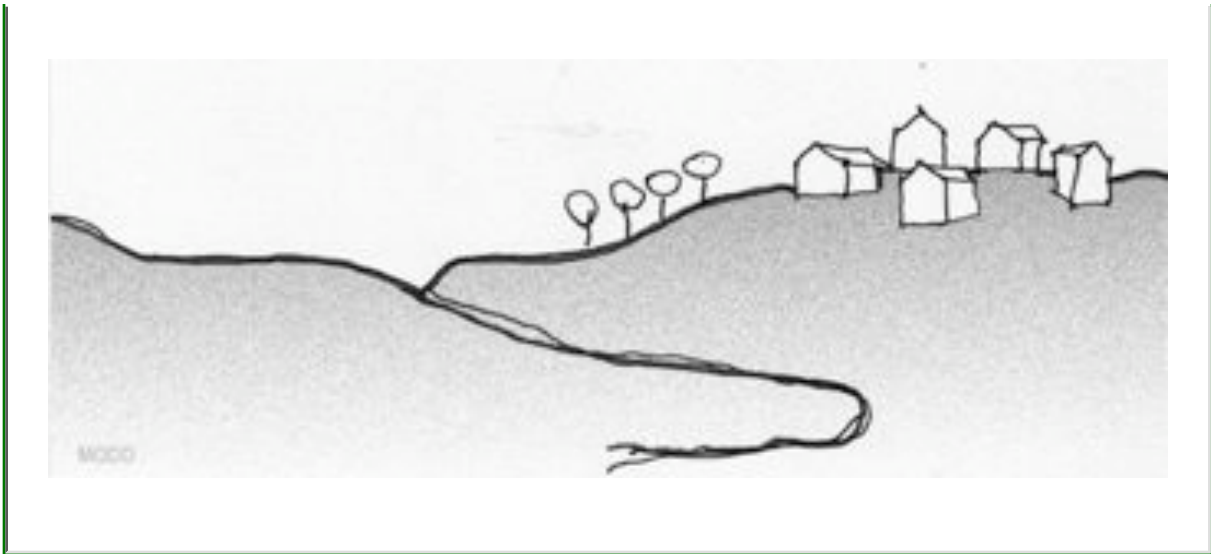
The mission of Belfast Area Cohousing is to be an environmentally **sustainable**, **affordable** ecovillage community that is easily accessible to Belfast, includes **land reserved** for agriculture and open space, and is an innovative housing development **model** for rural Maine.

Our vision is that by 2012, Belfast Area Ecovillage will be a sustainable, harmonious, functional cohousing community where residents love to live and others are waiting in line to join.

Membership Information

Check out [our website](#) or call 207-722-3079 to talk with a live person.

To ensure delivery, please add cohousing@fairpoint.net
to your address book or Safe Sender list



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