

**Colchester Land Trust Meeting**  
**Craigin Memorial Library**  
**April 14, 2011**

Present: Andy George, David Morrison, Leslie Curtis, Cathy Shea, Barry Ford, Michele McCormick, Danny Albert, Pete Dane, Chuck Toal, Helene Hochholzer, Chris Bourque

1. Meeting called to order by Andy at 7:05 PM.
2. Approval of March 10 minutes:

**Motion:** Approve minutes from March 10 meeting. Motion: Chuck Toal; Second: Cathy Shea; In favor: all; Opposed: none.

3. Art/Wine Auction: Barry –thanked all who helped, reception was very successful; good response from people who placed bids. Barry requested assistance in placing business cards at area businesses. He will send another e-mail for board members to forward to acquaintances.
4. Strategic Plan Update CLT/LTA: Andy inquired about the structure of the Strategic Plan; he feels it should follow that of the LTA. Chuck expressed that CLT goals might be more organizational, and thus might not fit exactly into LTA structure.  
After getting consensus from board members, it was decided to change the next Strategic Plan meeting from April 28, to April 29. It will be held at Leslie's house at 6 PM, on April 29; Andy will let Henrietta know. From the last Strategic Plan meeting, on March 2, Andy requested that those members who were responsible for a section- to please look at the grid and fill in the action steps. David asked for an e-mail copy of that information; Andy will check his files.
5. Sub-committee Reports:
  - a. Financial-Cathy, nothing at this time; Penni will be at next meeting. Andy mentioned that a financial representative will attend the May meeting, re 'growing money'.
  - b. Fundraising- Chuck distributed to board members, a list of notes from the March 24 Fundraising Meeting and Pete described some ideas that were discussed. It was suggested, for example, to consider for the future- soliciting an underwriter for the Salmon River Run. Cathy discussed the CLT website & streamlining of the donor levels; a current list was handed out to board members. Pete suggested that Danny be involved in the fundraising meetings, and to seek volunteers on a regular basis. Cathy will give criteria to Danny for the help needed at the May 7, 2011 Salmon River Run.
  - c. Land Owner Contact-Helene reported that the committee discussed: status of S & P progress, locally important soils, & NRCS contact. Chris was told that NRCS needs to hear from Greg Schuster, regarding soils. Chris was not made aware of LOC meetings & the committee needs to connect with him. Helene inquired if CLT can contribute money, to partner with another organization, such as, for legal work, surveys, etc. Discussion tabled to possible executive session.
6. Haddam Land Swap-Andy will write a letter to Senator Daly, as an individual citizen, and encouraged all to do same, as individuals. Leslie feels the letter should come from the CLT & Andy, with support from all board members. David mentioned it is helpful to refer to a specific bill number when sending letters. Helene will forward the name & address of DEP commissioner to board members. Chuck concurred with Andy, and requested that everyone please send an e-mail letter, as individuals.
7. Review Website: Cathy & Barry- (refer to 5 b, above).
8. NRCS Grant Update: Andy discussed the \$5200 grant, to be used for three CLT properties, and the intentions of the forester & tasks to be done on the properties; waiting on final paperwork-goal is to begin in September. Helene inquired about specific CLT members interviewing foresters. Andy suggested the possibility of interviewing three candidates. Chuck asked if volunteers will be needed to help at Gateway property, re removal of invasives.

9. Volunteers for Events: On Saturday, April 16, Chuck & Andy will lead a hike at Gateway property for a group of Ukrainian Rotarians, from 10-11 AM. Anyone who wishes to join is welcome.

- Road Race-May 7, (refer to 5 b-above)
- Memorial Day-May 29;
- CBA Tag Sale on the Green -June 12, Chuck;
- Historical Society Craft Show-July 23, Chuck not available; discussion tabled to next meeting.
- 57 Fest-September, discussion tabled to next meeting.

10. Prezkopski Farm/Gravel: Chris- discussed gravel pits in town; some litigation in progress. Small operations relative to size of farms they rest on; they've been around a long time and Chris is concerned that an owner(s) might sell if they can't get approval to operate. Mr. Prezkopski is spending a lot of money on this issue, as well as the town of Colchester. If all fails, farms could be sold and developed. Leslie noted that these farms are all located in corridors that have been identified by CLT, as important land to preserve. Chris inquired if CLT board would consider sending a letter to town zoning, to support a viable business. Although board members will consider further discussion to possibly support this issue, it was felt that more facts are needed first, for each case.

11. Standards & Practices:

- a. 12A Funding Land Stewardship of Land Owned in Fee—Chuck & Pete, handout; some comments, therefore Chuck & Pete will revisit, & compare with 11A for important distinctions.
- b. 5A Legal & Ethical Practices-Pete & Leslie, in progress.
- c. 8B Project Selection & Criteria- Barry & Helene.
- d. 9E Easement Drafting (April 2011) - (LOC)
- e. 9H Title Investigation & Subordination-Cathy & Andy.
- f. 11B Baseline Documentation Report- Helene sent thru e-mail & handed out copies; asked for comments on some sections. Follow-up next month, May.
- g. 11C- revisited. Helene- was approved in January, with changes; she will follow-up & send to Chuck & Andy.
- h. 8D Public Benefit of Transactions –Michele & ?
- i. 11I Amendments- Helene & Will

12. CT Land Conservation Conference, April 30 at Wesleyan Univ. - Andy inquired if any board members would be interested in attending; can register on-line and request reimbursement.

13. Colchester Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), Land Acquisition Fund- Chris described the benefit of a town having a good POCD in place; also the conflicts that can occur if the plan is not followed. He stated the Colchester POCD on the town website was informative, but not much information re agriculture. There is also a desire for more clarity re the Land Acquisition Fund, in the town budget. Chris requested support from CLT, and he urged everyone to read the POCD on the town website.

14. Festival- Andy spoke with Lisa & Barry; it was decided to postpone the CLT Ten Year Fest., to summer 2012.

15. Old Business: none

16. New Business: none

17. Adjournment:

**Motion:** Adjourn the regular meeting of the CLT at 8:57 PM. Motion: Leslie Curtis; Second: Chuck Toal; In Favor: all; Opposed: none.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2011