

Colchester Land Trust Regular Meeting August 13, 2009

Meeting Location: Cragin Memorial Library

Present: Cindy Praisner, Lisa Hageman, Barry Ford, Andy George, Leslie Curtis, Cathy Shea, Pete Dane, Chuck Toal, Will Hochholzer, Joe Diaz, Sarah Gambolatti

Meeting called to order by Lisa Hageman at 7:05PM.

Minutes from the May 14th regular meeting and June 29th board meeting were distributed for review.

Motion: Approve the minutes from the May 14th regular meeting as amended; approve the minutes from the June 29th board meeting as given. Motion: Leslie Curtis; Second: Will Hochholzer; In favor: All; Opposed: None

Financial Statement Review: Cindy provided revised financial statements for December 2008 and March 2009. The revisions were needed because one of our donations, received in December and deposited in January, was incorrectly applied to FY2009 instead of FY2008. In addition, financial statements through the end of June 2009 were presented and reviewed.

Board Manual Update: Sarah Gambolatti volunteered her time this summer to the service of the Land Trust by putting together board manuals for each member of the board based on LTA samples. The manuals were presented for review but collected for further updates. In addition, a sample Table of Contents was presented for review and comment. Suggestions for inclusion into the manual were items specific to the CLT such as maps of our own properties, corridor map (updated to include points indicated CLT properties, an annual Calendar (Cathy Shea to provide) marked with CLT events such as meetings, hikes, auction, road race, and other community events, etc. Chuck Toal will provide a miscellaneous section for the manual to include "good things to know" such as how to set up the tent, etc.

The Board Manual should be reviewed every 6 to 12 months.

AYO – Mission Statement: Cindy presented the CLT mission statement in LTA Standards format. All are asked to review the statement and e-mail comments to Cindy prior to the Sept. 10th meeting when the board will vote on adoption of the mission statement.

Ruby II Update: Adam Turner has sent the purchase agreement to the Howley family, whose attorneys are currently reviewing the agreement. Once the terms of the agreement have been finalized, a copy will be sent to Norcross for its review. A closing date has not been set. Adam is also working on a second agreement between the town and CLT, which is modeled after the original Ruby Cohen agreement, identifying use of the land for passive recreation and education. This agreement should be finalized in the next week or so.

Chuck will send a profile of the property including maps to Will Hochholzer. A Funding Committee meeting will take place prior to the next regular CLT meeting on Sept. 10th to discuss an acquisition campaign. Katherine Kosiba, of the Colchester Garden Club has been in contact with Lisa in regards to a possible partnership for fundraising. Lisa will forward details to funding committee members.

LTA Conservation Insurance Letter: The LTA has been working on a potential program to cover the costs of enforcing and defending easements and has requested our commitment to participate in the program if and when it is approved by the LTA board. A fee of \$250 is requested to accompany our letter of commitment to the LTA.

Motion: To allocate \$250 toward the Land Trust Alliance Conservation Defense Insurance program and to commit to participating as an insured in the LTA Conservation Defense Insurance program, authorizing Cathy Shea, as the board representative and Lisa Hageman, as the staff Executive Director/President to execute the commitment subject to the terms and conditions as set forth in the Program Terms and Conditions delivered by the LTA dated June 8, 2009. Motion: Chuck Toal; Second: Leslie Curtis. In favor: All; Opposed: None.

LTA Rally: Andy George would like to represent the CLT at the LTA rally in September.

Motion: To provide funding of up to \$1500 to cover the costs (including air fare, hotel, registration, and participation fees) of sending Andy George to LTA rally as a representative of CLT. Motion: Chuck Toal; Second: Will Hochholzer; In favor: All; Opposed: None

Park & Recreation Request: Jay Cohen of Colchester Parks and Recreation Dept. is writing a grant for recreational trails for \$40K worth of improvements along the Colchester Spur of the Airline Trail and has asked CLT for a letter of support. A suggestion was made for Marty Podkotch to write the letter.

Dog Park Request: The Dog Park committee has requested our participation in their upcoming dog "walk-a-thon". Lisa will e-mail details for consideration.

Wildlife Habitat Request: The Wildlife habitat has requested we certify our fee-owned properties on MacDonald Road, Bull Hill Road (Gateway), Usher Swamp, and Bulkeley Hill Road. The cost to certify is \$15 per property. There is an additional \$25 fee per property if the NWF certified habitat sign is desired. Cathy Shea to review the certification form to ensure herbicides are okay for the removal of invasive plant species.

Upcoming Events:

Motion to adjourn: Andy George, Second: Leslie Curtis. In favor: All; Opposed: None.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55pm

Important Dates:

October 8th – Next regular meeting

November 12th – Regular monthly meeting

December 10th – Regular monthly meeting/Holiday meeting?