

Colchester Land Trust February 12, 2009

Meeting Location: Cragin Memorial Library

Present: Cindy Praisner, Lisa Hageman, Will Hochholzer, Pete Dane, Leslie Curtis, Gary Ridell, Andy George, Marty Podskoch, Cathy Shea.

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

Minutes from the Nov. 13th and Dec. 11th regular meetings and Jan. 19th Board meeting were distributed for review but acceptance was tabled until the March meeting.

Financial Statements: Cindy Praisner presented an overview of the P& L Budget vs. Actual numbers as well as end of year Balance Sheet and Proposed Budget for 2009. It was noted that membership dollars are up this year over prior years due to more generous giving and that those monies should more than cover our operating budget of about \$16K. Cindy noted that the LTA recommends \$4K be kept in the operating reserve and that we currently have \$3500.

Motion: Move \$500 from year end excess into operating reserve. Motion: Andy George; Second: Lisa Hageman; In favor: All; Opposed: None.

Motion: Move \$1000 from year end excess into Acquisition fund, \$1000 from year end excess into Stewardship fund and remainder of year end excess into Unrestricted Assets. Motion: Leslie Curtis; Second: Andy George; In favor: All; Opposed: None.

Motion: Accept the budget as proposed. Motion: Marty Podskoch; Second: Leslie Curtis; In favor: All; Opposed: None.

CLT Phone Book: Eleven advertisers have not yet paid for their phone book ads, leaving \$5075 yet to come in. Leslie will contact these folks again.

Town Meeting on Farms: The meeting is set for Thursday, February 26th at 7:00pm. The Town will put out press. CLT will send a letter with bulleted items for discussion and conduct the meeting in Focus Group format. Cathy to print labels for farmer mailing. Leslie Curtis and Liz Gilman will phone farmers after the letter has been sent.

Art Auction: Barry is being aided by Juliana Cameron but is in need of contacts. Anyone with art, wine or contacts are encouraged to contact Barry.

Membership: Lisa asked whether the CLT should send reminders to non-renewing members. The general consensus was 'No' since current membership dollars already cover operating costs and we anticipate there may be other opportunities soon for targeted giving similar to Gateway. Pete suggested we consider moving away from the concept of 'membership' in favor of 'donations'. Pete suggests we may be more successful with two mailings per year : one targeting past donors asking for 'renewal' and one town wide mailing asking for donations.

Standards and Practices: Suggestions made to Andy for modifications to S&P documents previously distributed at January Board Meeting having to do with easement policies and records storage. A vote on their acceptance was tabled pending review by Rob Avena. Rob has already reviewed the Code of Ethics policy.

Motion: Approve "Conflict of Interest/Code of Ethics" Policy with changes. Motion: Marty Podskoch; Second: Lisa Hageman; In favor: All; Opposed: None.

Cindy will send a copy of the header for standardizing Standards and Practices to Andy and Cathy. Andy will send copies of the proposed S&P documents for easement policies and records storage to Pete, who was unable to attend the January meeting. Lisa will discuss suggested changes to Easement Records Policy with Chuck.

Other: Andy and Chuck met with Joe Hage of the Bacon Academy. The Environmental Science class will be developing a management plan for the 25 acre Usher Swamp property. Chuck and Andy will get a map of the property and get together with Joe Hage on April 6th and will walk the property with team leaders on April 20th. At some point, a field trip with the entire class is anticipated, with a forestry management plan completed by the first week of June, and possible future monitoring done by subsequent classes.

Town Cleanup Day: The Colchester Wildlife Habitat is interested in partnering with CLT on the Town Cleanup Day to be held April 25th. Andy will contact volunteers for cleaning up the Gateway property and surrounding area to be followed by a hike of the Gateway Property led by Marty.

Funding Committee: Pete has put together a Foundation and Institutional Giving Prospect table and assigned follow-up by members of the Funding Committee.

Organizational Assessment: Cathy has been in touch with Myles Alderman, the consultant, and is waiting on a contract from Sarah Pellegrino. Lisa and Cindy will send documents that are needed by Myles to Cathy.

Motion to adjourn: Cindy Praisner, Second: Lisa Hageman. In favor: All; Opposed: None.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55pm

Important Dates:

April 1st – Artist's Reception, Library

April 4th – CLCC Conference, Wesleyan

April 6th – Organizational Assessment Info Meeting

April 9th – Regular Meeting

April 20th – Usher Swamp Walk with B. A.

April 25th – Town Cleanup Day – Gateway Cleanup/Hike

April 29/30th – LTA Northeast Conference, West Point, NY

May 9th – Salmon River Run

June 14th – Tag Sale on the Green