

Colchester Land Trust Meeting

January 14, 2010 Meeting Location: Cragin Memorial Library

Present: Lisa Hageman, Cindy Praisner, Leslie Curtis, Barry Ford, Andy George, Cathy Shea, Marty Podskoch, Chuck Toal, Pete Dane

Meeting called to order by Lisa Hageman at 7:04PM.

Minutes from the December 10th regular meeting were distributed for review.

Motion: Approve the minutes from the December 10th regular meeting. Motion: Andy George; Second: Pete Dane; In favor: All; Opposed: None

Financial Update: Cindy Praisner presented the 2010 budget and noted it was conservative, based on donations, fundraising and expenses from last year. Cindy additionally noted that special projects like Ruby II are outside of the budget. A question arose regarding real-estate taxes of \$892.78. It was noted these reflect a donation of land on Bulkeley Hill Road by a developer without the full knowledge or input from CLT. Normally the developer is asked to pay any taxes due.

Phone Book: This year's phone book profits were \$2,633 – lower than past years due to the poor economy.

Norcross Loan Payment: Lisa Hageman suggested CLT pay the \$20,000 received from the Bafflin grant toward the Norcross loan so that those funds would be available to other Norcross loan recipients.

Motion: to pay \$20,000 toward the principal of CLT's mortgage with Norcross. Motion: Chuck Toal; Second: Leslie Curtis. In favor: All, Opposed: None

Cindy will cut a check to Norcross and include a note of appreciation.

Ruby II Update: Pete Dane suggested CLT consider a springtime townwide mailing to appeal for Ruby II funding.

Hung Won Fundraiser: Barry Ford has produced a letter of invitation to be sent to the same list as the membership mailing with the addition of town dignitaries. The letter will include two complimentary drink tickets. Envelope stuffing to take place Monday, January 18th.

An open letter of invitation has been placed in the regional newspapers and Andy George has secured sponsors to cover the cost of the event.

Cathy Shea will handle R.S.V.P.s and get a final head count to Andy.

Barry Ford will make a map of the Ruby II property and provide photographs that can be displayed in a digital frame for the event.

The reception will run from 6:00 to 8:00pm on Thursday, Feb. 4th, will include hors d'oeuvres from 6:00 – 6:30. Lisa will welcome attendees and Kevin Case, from LTA, will address attendees from 6:30-7:00. Buffet dinner to be served at 7:00pm. It was decided to not have a raffle at this event.

Marty Podskoch will hold a Discover Colchester hike at the Cohen preserve/Ruby II property on Sunday, Jan. 31st and will make contribution forms available to attendees.

Standards and Practices: Lisa Hageman led a discussion on the current approach to the S&P. Some of the initial policies were relatively easy to draft, but some of the more recent policies are proving to be more difficult. It was suggested to work on S&P policies in teams of two. One person will draft an initial policy based on LTA guidelines and samples. That person will provide the LTA guidance documents and samples used to a review partner who will help to hone the policy, ensuring it answers to the LTA guidance. Once a final draft has been crafted, the policy will be presented to the board for review and comment, followed by a vote.

- *Public Policy*: Leslie presented a final draft of the Public Policy statement.

Motion: Approve Standards and Practice 2E, Public Policy, as amended. Motion: Chuck Toal; Second: Andy George. In favor: All, Opposed: None

- *Enforcement of Easements*: Has proven to be a lengthy and complicated set of policies requiring more extensive review. Lisa Hageman was assigned as a review partner for Marty.
- *Land Transactions/Record Keeping*: requires some board decisions and actions, such as a location for the safe storage of permanent records. Lisa will inquire with Town as to whether they may be able and willing to accommodate our needs. Other options include renting a larger safe deposit box or other offsite storage, or purchasing a fire-proof filing cabinet/box and determining its location. Cathy and Lisa also recommended a review of S&P 2D, Records Policy, which was approved by the board prior to last year's AYO. It was suggested a more comprehensive policy and re-vote may be needed.

Strategic Plan Proposal : Lisa Hageman submitted a grant proposal to the LTA for \$6,875 for a consultant to assist the CLT with a strategic plan this year. If chosen to receive the grant, CLT would be responsible for 25% of costs.

Review of 2009 Goals: Lisa Hageman passed out the 2009 goals for review and discussion at the next meeting scheduled for Feb. 11th, 2009

Nominating Committee: a committee was appointed for the purpose of nominating members to Board positions at the annual meeting in June, as the terms of all but two current Board members are due to expire at that time. The committee will consist of Leslie Curtis, Lisa Hageman, and Pete Dane.

Environmental Stewardship Workshop: will be held on March 24th by the Town of Colchester and CLT and other partner organizations have been solicited to participate at a cost of \$45 to the group.

Motion: Support the Town's request for participation in the Environmental Stewardship Workshop to be held March 24th from 6:00 to 9:00pm at the Town Hall. Motion: Chuck Toal; Second: Marty Podskoch. In favor: All, Opposed: None

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Leslie Curtis. Second: Cindy Praisner. In favor: All; Opposed: None.

Regular meeting of the Colchester Land Trust adjourned at 8:55pm