

Colchester Land Trust March 12, 2009

Meeting Location: Cragin Memorial Library

Present: Chuck Toal, Cindy Praisner, Lisa Hageman, Will Hochholzer, Pete Dane, Barry Ford, Andy George, Marty Podskoch, Cathy Shea.

Meeting called to order by Lisa Hageman at 7:15PM.

Minutes from the February 12<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were distributed for review.

Motion: Approve the minutes from the Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> regular meetings as well as the Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Motion: Andy George; Second: Lisa Hageman; In favor: All; Opposed: None

Motion: Approve the minutes from the February 12<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Motion: Cindy Praisner; Second: Chuck Toal; In favor: All; Opposed: None

Financial Statements: Cindy Praisner presented a revised balance sheet and noted that \$21,177 of unallocated funds needed to be allocated. Cindy noted that, based on recommendations from LTA and our current assets, we should be working to set aside \$52,700 for stewardship funds

Motion: Allocate \$15,500 of currently unallocated funds to land acquisition and \$5,677.71 to stewardship. Motion: Chuck Toal; Second: Barry Ford; In favor: All; Opposed: None.

Fine Art of Living Update: Barry stated that work on the auction is going well. 45 pieces have been donated already and Barry is working on a letter to wine distributors requesting donations. Barry is having a banner made for the front of the library that can be used annually.

Board Goals: Lisa presented a matrix outlining the CLT goals for the year based on individual goals by organizational area. Board members who have not identified their individual goals are asked to please send them to Lisa for inclusion in the matrix.

Agricultural Viability Grant Priority List: Cindy Praisner and Helene Hochholzer are to be commended for running an excellent Farm Meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup> where farmers were able to identify the most meaningful items from list of recommendations made by the Agricultural Viability Study. Subsequent to the meeting, CLT was asked to select 5 the recommendations that would be our highest priority. All weighed in and 6 items were selected to be presented (in no particular order) to Adam Turner, Town Planner:

- (2) Investigate tax rates for 490 program w/goal of adhering to CT Dept. of Agriculture guidelines ...
- (3) Allow farmers to apply for tax relief under 490 O ...
- (6) Educate public about the importance of farmland to Colchester ...
- (12) Create an agricultural overlay zone biased in favor of farm preservation ...
- (16) Formally adopt the state's definition of farming as well as right to farm law as town policy
- (18) Economic Development should discuss possible methods for supporting farms as "businesses" ...

Partnership with Parks and Recreation: Partnership discussions have been placed on hold for the time being due to time constraints. All are strapped for time given current CLT activities.

Standards and Practices: Rob Avena has reviewed the Easement Amendment policy and suggested a couple of minor changes having to do with the amount of a retainer to cover costs accrued by CLT and the inclusion of applicable attorney fees.

Motion: Approve "Conservation Easement Amendment" and Document Storage and Maintenance policies as amended. Motion: Andy George; Second: Chuck Toal; In favor: All; Opposed: None.

Andy will send copies of the final document to all.

Town Cleanup Day: The Colchester Wildlife Habitat is interested in partnering with CLT on the Town Cleanup Day to be held April 25<sup>th</sup>. 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. A preliminary walk of the property will take place on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am for the purposes of identifying invasive plants needing removal and to identify a hike route. Cathy Shea to invite Katherine Kosiba to join.

Tag Sale on the Green: Chuck Toal is not available on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Andy George will solicit volunteers to work a 1 or 2 hour shift alongside a board member who can act as a mentor.

Funding Committee: Will not meet in April due to the flurry of other CLT activities. Meetings to resume in May.

Organizational Assessment: Lisa has spoken with Myles Alderman as a pre-cursor to the organizational assessment. One of the Board goals for 2009 should include tightening up our records policies, as it is likely to be a focus of the assessment.

Other: Colchester Historical Society has requested CLT not conduct history hikes/walks in the center of town. The Historical Society would like CLT to concentrate on open space instead. General sentiment by all was to comply with their request but to let them know we are happy to collaborate on or co-sponsor activities where there may be some overlapping interest.

Motion to adjourn: Marty Podskoch, Second: Lisa Hageman. In favor: All; Opposed: None.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm

Important Dates:

April 18<sup>th</sup> – preliminary Gateway walk

April 20<sup>th</sup> – Usher Swamp Walk with B. A.

April 25<sup>th</sup> – Town Cleanup Day – Gateway Cleanup/Hike

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

May 9<sup>th</sup> – Salmon River Run

May 14<sup>th</sup> – Next Regular Meeting

May 18<sup>th</sup> – Next AYO Meeting

May 25<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day Parade

June 14<sup>th</sup> – Tag Sale on the Green

July 25<sup>th</sup> – Arts and Crafts on the Green