

Meeting Location: Cragin Memorial Library

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

Meeting called to order by Lisa Hageman at 7:20PM.

Minutes from the April 9th regular meeting were distributed for review.

Motion: Approve the minutes from the April 9th regular meeting. Motion: Leslie Curtis; Second: Pete Dane; In favor: All; Opposed: None

Ruby II Update: Lisa Hageman and Chuck Toal met with Adam Turner regarding the purchase of the Howley property (Ruby II). Currently, we have a verbal agreement with the Howleys for \$182,500 which at the time of the agreement was the mid-range of the estimated appraised value. We need to get a more current verification of the appraisal. We have received a final survey of the 31 acres – a larger parcel than originally thought.

Discussed with Adam Turner: How to fund the purchase, how to publicize the acquisition, what is the temperature of the current political climate, how to proceed from here. According to Adam, Town funds are earmarked for land preservation and the Town will purchase the property direct from the Howleys. CLT will help raise additional funds that may be needed for the transaction. The project will be presented to the Open Space Task Force which will recommend to the Conservation Commission, then to the Board of Selectmen and then to the Town. Prior to CLT raising any funds, Rob Avena will need to meet with the Town's attorney to agree on language for deed. We want it to be clear that the land remains passive open space, undevelopable, and not used in the future for ball fields, etc. The Town will draw up the agreements and CLT is expected to provide a small binder deposit of \$5000. Publicity will be a joint effort on the part of the Town and the CLT.

Adam has reached an agreement with the Mohegan Land Trust property near Lake Hayward, has received a grant for boundary marking and will be presenting to the Conservation Commission, then Board of Selectmen.

Town is working on a "Farm Trail" brochure/map to showcase Colchester Farms and their products and Adam will present the Right to Farm act to the Board of Selectmen.

Fine Art of Living Summary: Net profits from the Auction were about \$4000. It was suggested we solicit donations of art throughout year as some people who may have donations are not around in the winter months. Barry will keep a link on the Web site for this purpose. Pete is interested in increasing the exposure to the Auction in more affluent areas of CT.

Standards and Practices Discussion: Lisa spoke with Myles regarding the three recently proposed practices and it was felt that, in general, the CLT practices are not personalized or meaty enough to be accepted by the accreditation process. Myles suggested our documented practices keep both accreditation and policies we can live by in mind. In an effort to keep moving forward, it is important we document the procedures as we are already implementing them.

Bacon Academy Project: Chuck Toal and Will Hochholzer will lead Joe Hage's Environmental Science Classes on a field trip Monday, May 18th, to the Usher Swamp property for some hands on environmental study. One group will conduct boundary marking while another collects data to be used for producing a stewardship plan for the property.

Annual Meeting: CLT Annual meeting will take place June 11th at Andy George's house. CLT will present two volunteer awards to Gary Riddell and Sue Rzewuski in recognition and appreciation of their volunteer involvement. In addition, CLT would like to honor Joe Hage by providing a \$100 grant to the Colchester Learning Foundations to be earmarked for environmental studies.

Motion: Donate \$100 to the Colchester Learning Foundations for environmental studies in appreciation of Joe Hage. Motion: Andy George; Second: Chuck Toal; In favor: All; Opposed: None

Salmon River Run Summary: A good time appeared to be had by all judging by e-mails, blogs, and Flickr uploads Not all numbers are in but profits look to be around \$1000. Last of bills was given to Cindy Praisner and one last check is expected from Active.com, the online registration service

Children's Collaborative Partnership: The Collaborative for Colchester's Children is looking for commitment from CLT as a partner organization. Areas where CLT can best help with their goals include increasing physical activity and getting children outside.

Motion: CLT will support the goals of the Collaborative for Colchester's Children. Motion: Leslie Curtis; Second: Chuck Toal; In favor: All; Opposed: None

Treasurer Position: Cindy and Lisa would like to speak with member, Renie Besaw to recruit her for Treasurer position.

Upcoming Events:

Fritz Gahagan will speak pro-bono to small group of land owners by invitation only at Town Hall, Conference Room B, on May 28th at 7:00pm. Fritz will be able to give personal attention to those who may be interested in preserving their land. All board members are encouraged to attend as this talk will be a great learning experience.

Right to Farm Act will be presented to the Board of Selectmen by Adam Turner on the same evening. It would be good to have one or two representative farmers (Liz Gilman?) as well as Cindy and Helene attending this meeting.

Tag Sale on the Green is June 14th. Chuck is out of town so two people are needed to set up. Andy will coordinate and solicit volunteers to assist Board members in one hour shifts. It is anticipated this will be a great learning experience for members.

CLT was granted stewardship funds by both the Lions (\$225) and Leos (\$120) Clubs of Colchester. Cathy Shea to send a note of thanks to both organizations.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm

Important Dates:

June 14th – Tag Sale on the Green

June 18th – Ruby II Presentation

June 29th – Organization Assessment Meeting

July 9th – Regular Meeting?

July 25th – Arts and Crafts on the Green

July 29th – Colchester Land Summit