

Colchester Land Trust Meeting

May 13, 2010

Meeting Location: Cragin Memorial Library

Present: Cindy Praisner, Leslie Curtis, Andy George, Cathy Shea, Chuck Toal, Marty Podskoch, Will Hochholzer, Gary Riddell, Pete Dane, Adam Turner, Michele McCormick

Meeting called to order by Leslie Curtis at 7:08PM.

Adam Turner: announced that the Town of Colchester had received a grant from TNC and would be consulting with land use experts to rewrite the zoning code, taking into consideration subdivisions, wetland buffers, and support for open space. Adam would like to see the Town's open space plan updated. He feels the plan is too broad and has 'no teeth' and is currently not directing town action. Adam feels the Town should review goals met and missed by the plan and arrive at 3 or 4 specific goals to work on. He suggested it may make sense to pick a single corridor into which the Town could put some focused energy. Adam advocates setting aside \$25,000/year for open space. Adam would like the Town's approach to open space to change – would like to utilize the 'fee in lieu of' more and be more strategic about which properties are accepted by the Town. CLT can help by participating in land use code and by engaging public officials in budgeting for open space.

Minutes from the April 8th regular meeting were distributed for review.

Motion: Approve the minutes from the April 8th regular. Motion: Marty Podskoch; Second: Chuck Toal; In favor: All; Opposed: None

Ruby II Follow-up: Pete Dane reported that he was successful in getting some of the last holdouts from the Ruby II dinner attendees to follow through with donations to the project. CLT is about half way to meeting the anonymous \$5000 challenge grant and the importance of pushing the need for new donors at all events in which CLT will participate this summer was stressed.

Art Auction Follow-up: Barry Ford was not present but Cindy Praisner noted that the Auction results were slightly better than last year, raising roughly \$5,000. The head librarian has reserved the Norton A and B rooms for the month of April next year and the reception was scheduled for April 6th. Art may be set up on Saturday, April 2nd 2011.

Salmon River Run Follow-up: Cathy Shea noted that a record 272 runners signed up and 245 showed up to run, though weather was inclement. The event was well received by runners with eleven 5-star reviews at the on-line registration web site. Not all funds had been received but Cathy estimates the event raised roughly \$4500.

Financial: Cindy revised the 2009 year end budget to account for left out \$1.00 easements, Norcross loan as a liability on Balance sheet and expense on P & L statement. Cindy noted the board needs to decide where to put board-designated funds.

Community Events: Andy George provided more information on the charity golf event mentioned in the last meeting. A friend of his organizes a charity golf event every year and would like CLT to be the recipient of proceeds this year. No involvement of CLT board members is necessary except possibly some participation in the event itself.

Chuck Toal will man the CLT tent for the Memorial day parade on Sunday, May 30th. Pete Dane and Cathy Shea will assist in setting up the tent.

Chuck Toal will set up a table on the Air Line Trail for National Trails Day on Saturday, June 5th and will lead a history hike on Sunday, June 6th, also on the Air Line Trail. Vehicles are needed to shuttle hikers.

Chuck will not be available for the Tag Sale on the Green. Cathy Shea and Pete Dane will set up the tent. Andy George will solicit volunteers from the membership.

Other: Andy George announced that the Conservation Commission had approved 6 acres of a 38 acre parcel on Route 149 to be used for gravel operations. The remaining acreage is not to be further developed and animals currently on the property near the banks of the Jeremy River are to be relocated.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting is scheduled for June 10th. Cathy Shea has volunteered to take on the Treasurer position and day to day financial duties. Penni Rochette will assist with the financial reporting. Both will meet with Cindy to discuss roles and duties. Michele McCormick has volunteered to take over the Secretary duties, though Cathy will retain responsibility for membership. Andy George has volunteered to take over from Lisa Hageman as President and Chuck Toal has volunteered to handle Vice President duties.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Andy George. Second: Marty Podskoch. In favor: All; Opposed: None.

Regular meeting of the Colchester Land Trust adjourned at 8:50pm

Important Dates:

June 10th – Annual CLT Meeting

June 13th – Tag Sale on the Green

July 24th – Craft Sale on the Green

August 20th – Town Campout at Ruby Cohen