

**Colchester Land Trust Regular Meeting November 12, 2009**

**Meeting Location: Cragin Memorial Library**

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

Meeting called to order by Lisa Hageman at 7:10PM.

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

**Motion:** Approve the minutes from the October 8th regular meeting. Motion: Barry Ford; Second: Chuck Toal; In favor: All; Opposed: None

Ruby II Update: The Town's purchase of the Ruby II property closed on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. The wire of funds from CLT took place on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. And the grant request to the Bafflin Foundation has been mailed. Chuck Toal will write a letter of thanks to Maureen Howley as well as a letter to the editor of local papers thanking Linda Hodge and Adam Turner for their support of the project.

Ruby II Fundraising: CLT will now commence to raise \$50K to repay the Norcross loan and replenish acquisition funds. Pete Dane and Andy George have spoken with folks at Hung Won with regard to a Cocktail Reception. The restaurant can accommodate up to 80 people and would charge \$15 - \$18 per head. Pete suggested we may want to conduct a "cultivation" event where we would invite potential donors and solicit donations to the Ruby II project rather than charge a set price and benefit only from the profits. It was suggested that we forgo the holiday gathering in January if we plan to hold the reception in early February. Andy will check availability with Hung Won but dates suggested are Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>, both Wednesday nights.

A membership mailing will also be conducted and will include a solicitation for the Ruby II project as well as information regarding the Cocktail reception. The mailing will be sent to the membership database as well as to other databases at our disposal (hikers, runners, etc.) and to residents of McDonald and surrounding roads. Barry will draft a membership letter to be reviewed by the Funding Committee.

Marty will conduct a hike of the property in early February to help drum up interest.

Standards and Practices: Rob Avena has reviewed the Reserved Rights policy and has given his approval.

**Motion:** Accept the most recently revised Practice 11F, Reserved and Permitted Rights Policy. Motion: Leslie Curtis; Second: Andy George; In favor: All; Opposed: None

Leslie presented a second draft of the Public Policy statement. Cindy noted it would be worthwhile to include the 501c3 rules and regulations as appendices so that they can be referred to if necessary.

Cindy Praisner presented the Financial Records policy which requires input from Katie, the financial advisor prior to finalization. All are asked to review and comment to Cindy prior to the next meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Site Evaluation Form has been moved to December.

Financials: Cindy presented the latest Financials and noted that \$20K has been placed in a statement savings account as additional security for the Norcross Loan. This cannot be touched until the loan has been repaid.

Phone Book Update: Leslie reported that \$16,125 in ads have been sold with \$9,600 received. Leslie and Tim will follow up with the those whose payments are outstanding after the book has been produced.

Art of Fine Living Auction: The Library has already booked an exhibit by DCF Foster Care for both the month of April and the month of May. A suggestion was made to speak with restaurant owners (possibly the new proprietors of Cibo or NuNus) about the possibility of displaying the Art during the month of April and hosting the reception. Other suggestions included changing the date of the Auction to June or identifying other alternative locations for April. Barry will try to contact the DCF to see how firm their plans are for the April exhibit and/or whether we can negotiate a couple of weeks for our exhibit in April.

CT Land Trust Challenge Fund: CLT are being encouraged to apply for a grant from the Challenge Fund which would allow us to hire a consultant to assist with our Strategic Plan and move toward accreditation. A conference call is scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> which Andy will sit in on. Deadline for proposals are January 14<sup>th</sup>. Lisa will apply for the grant with help from Andy.

Adjournment:

**Motion to adjourn:** Chuck Toal, Second: Leslie Curtis. In favor: All; Opposed: None.

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