

Colchester Land Trust Regular Meeting September 10, 2009

Meeting Location: Cragin Memorial Library

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

Meeting called to order by Lisa Hageman at 7:12PM.

Minutes from the August 13th regular meeting were distributed for review.

Motion: Approve the minutes from the August 13th regular meeting. Motion: Andy George; Second: Chuck Toal; In favor: All; Opposed: None

Ruby II Update: Purchase of the Ruby II property has been delayed by a snag in Town procedures. Bruce Hayn cited a town ordinance stating purchase of open space must be reviewed by the Board of Finance prior to recommendation to the Board of Selectmen and Town vote. Although members of the BOF were present at both the BOS and Town meetings and voted in favor of the purchase, the process must be rewound back to the missing BOF review step and all following steps must be re-done (BOS recommendation and Town meeting). The next BOF meeting will take place on Sept. 16th. Chuck met with Ron Goldstein and Bruce Hayn and presented the letter from Norcross indicating our ability to secure the one year loan based on funds we plan to raise from the Art Auction, Road Race, large donors, and small gifts. Chuck noted that Goldstein and Hayn questioned the value of the property based on ambiguity in the appraisal as to the actual number of building lots which could be supported. Lisa will ask the appraiser whether the statement "appears to support two building lots" could be made less ambiguous, though it was noted the actual number of building lots cannot be determined without perc tests etc.

Rob Avena is checking into whether any probate issues remain on the property.

Organizational Assessment: Cindy Praisner presented an updated mission statement for review and vote.

Motion: Accept Practice 1A, Mission Statement as amended. Motion: Chuck Toal; Second: Will Hochholzer; In favor: All; Opposed: None

Barry Ford presented a CLT Ethics Statement for initial comment. Barry will make suggested changes and e-mail a final copy to the Board for review prior to the regular meeting on October 8th.

Chuck has drafted policy on Reserved and Permitted Rights. It was suggested to have Rob Avena review prior to the regular meeting on October 8th.

LTA Conservation Insurance: Thus far, CLT is the only Connecticut land trust to commit to the Conservation Insurance program and LTA is looking to us for a quote on our reasons for commitment. In addition, they have asked us to reach out to other land trusts. Leslie will call Anita Ballek from the E. Haddam Land Trust and Lisa will contact David Bingham from Salem.

Treasurer Position: Joe Diaz appears not to be interested in assuming the volunteer treasurer position or in taking over bookkeeping duties on a volunteer basis. He may, however, be interested in performing a fee-based independent review or evaluation of our use of QuickBooks.

Phone Book Update: Several bids were solicited for the production of the CLT 2010 phone book and two were received: one from Juliana Cameron and one from Barry Ford of Ford Folios. Barry's bid was slightly lower and includes modifications to the artwork at no charge. The phone book committee recommends the use of Ford Folios for the production of the 2010 CLT phone book based on the low bid and high quality of past work

Motion: Accept Ford Folios' bid for the production of the 2010 CLT phone book as quoted. Motion: Marty Podskoch; Second: Cindy Praisner; In favor: All; Opposed: None; Abstaining: Barry Ford

Right to Farm Status: Colchester Right to Farm policy has been updated with new language that is the same as the State's Right to Farm policy.

Upcoming Events:

Marty Podskoch has scheduled a tree hike in October with Ed Richardson in the center of town and has reached out to Arthur Liverant requesting the Historical Society as a co-sponsor of the hike.

Chuck Toal will set up and man the CLT tent during the 57 Fest on September 12th. Chuck noted he has e-mailed Adam Turner requesting new maps for our displays.

Organizational Assessment assignments due in October:

By-laws: Cindy

Public Policy: Leslie

Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:58pm

Important Dates:

October 25th – Discover Colchester Hike (Tree Walk)

November 12th – Next regular meeting

December 10th – Regular monthly meeting/Holiday meeting?