



Westborough Community Land Trust

2004 Annual Meeting



Photo: John Gareri, 2003

Monday, June 21, 2004
St. Luke's Parish Center, Ruggles Street



Agenda

7 pm Refreshments and Mingling

7:30 pm Welcome – President, Ellen O'Brien

Reports

Secretary, Sue Lippitt – minutes of 2003 Annual Meeting

Treasurer, Steve Doret/John Nunley

Committee Reports

Acquisition, James Tashjian, Chair

Education, Leslie Leslie, Chair

Membership, Maureen Johnson, Chair

Stewardship, Tim Buckalew, Chair

Nominating, John Gareri

Nominations of new board members – Election of the Slate

Nomination of new officers – Election of the Slate

8 pm **Presentation — The Historical Perspective**

From the seemingly limitless forest tracts of colonial time, to the largely cleared agricultural landscape of the nineteenth century, and back to the predominantly forested region of today, the Massachusetts landscape has gone through major historical transformations. **John O'Keefe**, forest ecologist and Coordinator of the Fisher Museum at Harvard Forest, will discuss the legacy of these transformations, reflecting how a sequence of human and natural disturbance has shaped the character of our modern landscape and influences virtually all aspects of our lives.

Coffee and refreshments to follow



Minutes from the 2003 Annual Meeting

Submitted by Sue Lippitt, Secretary

President Ellen O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. She reported that the Land Trust had a good year. We now have 15.2 miles of trails and 70% of the Charm Bracelet completed. The Friends of the Charm Bracelet was organized and launched. The town Global Positioning System was used and five maps are now complete. Kathy LeBlanc has created and is maintaining the Butterfly Garden at the Headwaters Conservation Area, there have been eight Boy Scout Eagle projects done on the trails, Earth Day was celebrated with a series of events including the Earth Day Festival. A school initiative was started with Mill Pond School to create an outdoor classroom and the town voted HCA into conservation.

State Senator Pamela Resor was invited to speak. She reported that municipal funding relief is the most critical issue at this point. By the end of this week the budget should be completed. A restructuring proposal which will realign which state offices are dealing with growth issues is being implemented. The objective of this proposal is to promote smarter growth. The Natural Heritage Office and the Metropolitan District Commission are being combined into Parks and Recreation. The monitoring of funds for the Environmental Protection Agency has not been touched.

Minutes of the 2002 Annual Meeting were read. Two spelling errors, "Emery" and "Brault" were noted. Kate Donaghue motioned that the minutes be accepted as amended, Tim Buckalew seconded. All approved.

Steven Doret presented the Treasurer's Report. Elena Pucciarelli motioned that we accept the report and Leigh Emery seconded. All approved.

Acquisitions Report — Jim Tashjian reported that the committee dealt with two areas of concern; the acquisition of land and easements. There are two types of land ownership, those that are tied into subdivisions and those that are not. Examples of those tied to a subdivision are Pheasant Hill off Adams Street near Ruggles Street and the Orchards Subdivision. An example of land not tied to a subdivision is the piece of property abutting the Libby property that was added to the WCLT as a gift. Ellen Lutz reported on the status of easement negotiations. She received a grant to acquire easements. The goal of the grant was to purchase easements or negotiate the permission to cross property as part of the Charm Bracelet. Six easements will be concluded by June 30th. Two easements are from developers who will donate the

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land back to WCLT. Two are from families, the Radin/Dupres and Nancy Rich and two properties are from nonprofits, the New England Forestry Foundation and The Archdiocese of Worcester. As a result of these efforts, we will be spending most of the grant money. With these additions, you can walk from the Robinson Walkup property to the Rotary downtown.

Education Committee — Leslie Leslie reported that we are sponsoring walks including Mark Lynch and Edible Plants. They are well received and well attended. Mill Pond School Curriculum Specialist Chris Rogers has worked with Leslie to train ten parent volunteers to be trail teachers in the outdoor classroom. Staff and students are all excited about getting outdoors and using this beautiful setting as a place to learn.

Stewardship committee — Tim Buckalew reported that the committee meets once a month and works on a project. This past year they have built a boardwalk, cut trails at SUASCO, done a breeding bird survey, and sponsored a Botanical Inventory. The Friends of the Charm Bracelet are working on mapping.

Tim Buckalew presented the Nominating Committee Report. Leigh Emery motioned that we accept the slate of officers as presented. Al Sanborn seconded. All approved.

Ellen presented the annual awards. The Jack and Ellie Pepper Award given to honor a member of the community was given to Maryann O'Connor, the Principal of Mill Pond School. The President's Award given to honor service by a Land Trust member was awarded to Susan Lippitt. The YES Award is given to a young adult who makes a contribution to the Land Trust or the community through their service. This year's winner is Patrick Dunbeck.

Under announcements, Scott Shumway announced that the Conservation Commission is meeting tomorrow evening at 7 pm in the Forbes Building. All are encouraged to attend and participate. Ellen announced that July 23rd is Willows Night.

Leigh Emery made a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Leslie Drohan seconded. All approved. The meeting ended at 8:17 pm.

Committee Reports

Report of the Acquisitions Committee

Submitted by Jim Tashjian

Since our last annual meeting, the Committee has been able to conclude a number of projects which had occupied much of our attention. One of our primary focuses is to obtain legal easements in order to protect the Charm Bracelet trails. By the end of last June, we were able to record legal easements to six critical areas:

- Land off Carroll Drive received from New England Forestry Foundation and which allows a trail to lead to the land donated to the Town by Bill and Mary Emily Libbey.
- Land at St. Luke's Cemetery through a grant from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Worcester.
- Land on Flanders Road through a deed from William Dupree and Rachel Radin.
- Land on Flanders Road through a deed from Nancy Rich.
- Land off Maynard Street through a deed from Abu Construction, Inc.
- Land off Gilmore Farm Road and adjacent to property received from Casa Builders and Developers Corp.

We have also successfully concluded the receipt of ownership of several parcels of open space during this past year whose description follows:

- June, 2003 – A 20 acre parcel off Nipmuck Drive within the Oak Bluffs Subdivision.
- June, 2003 – Two parcels of land containing 21 acres and 13 acres off Ruggles Street, Gilmore Farm Road and Isaac Miller Road from Casa Builders and Developers.
- September, 2003 – A two and one-half acre parcel off Adams Street and adjacent to the town-owned land received from Bill and Mary Emily Libbey deeded by Frank and Hervey Peairs.
- December, 2003 – A 15 acre parcel of land off East Main Street received from East Point Realty Trust.
- December, 2003 – Two parcels of land on Long Drive and Sleigh Lane received from Valley View Estates Limited Partnership, containing 13 acres and 16 acres.

The Committee continues to be involved in efforts to protect other uncommitted open space in town which remains in private ownership. We are open to considering

varied methods available to meet the goals of WCLT in addition to outright ownership, such as the participation in and facilitation of placement of conservation restrictions, with or without public access. To reach those goals, it is likely that significant funds may need to be raised in order to provide fair compensation to private property owners. We feel that it is important for the Land Trust to be prepared to engage in a major fundraising activity when such need arises. We would like to express our gratitude to the many individuals who have, and continue to work with us.

Report of the Education Committee

Submitted by Leslie Leslie

Environmental education presented by WCLT is constantly changing to match its surroundings and audiences. One day, the Land Trust is sponsoring a bird walk attracting those who rise early, whereas a history of wildlife talk by Mass Wildlife brings out the night owls. Families might join a Sunday walk to learn about the Land Trust's efforts to protect Orchard Swamp, while the school children participate in an afternoon hike with the High School Environmental Club at Mill Pond. *Westborough News* readers are treated to a fabulous article about our natural environment in a new column "Nature Notes" sponsored by WCLT. Voters waiting in line at Town Meeting were introduced to WCLT's new website www.westborough-landtrust.org and given WCLT decals for their cars. The Land Trust has successfully provided a wide array of educational opportunities this year.

One highlight was the Land Trust's annual sponsorship of Earth Day in Westborough. The entire community came together for a wonderful celebration — even the weather was nice. Land Trust members led cleanups throughout the town on an April weekend and the Mill Pond School took the environmental message school-wide with a month long program culminating in an Earth Festival. Over 900 children took part in workshops, trail hikes, tree plantings, nature programs and a wetland reclamation project. Thanks to our many volunteers, WCLT will continue to serve the varied interests of our community while promoting the mission of WCLT.

Report of the Membership Committee

Submitted by Maureen Johnson

The Membership Committee is creating goals and reviewing the processes in order to attract and maintain substantial membership to support WCLT initiatives. The main responsibilities of the Membership Committee are to

attain new members, retain active members and coordinate the Annual Appeal. The Committee is working on creative ideas to attract new members through community events and a formal membership drive. Membership renewal letters have been mailed. Renewed memberships will run through June 2005. The Annual Appeal will take place in December to coincide with year-end giving.

Report of the Stewardship Committee

Submitted by Tim Buckalew

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for trail design and maintenance on property owned by WCLT and we have played an active role in supporting the extension of the Charm Bracelet on our land, and land owned by the Town, state and private individuals.

In support of that role we met monthly throughout the year to plan our work and to coordinate with other organizations, including the Boy and Girl Scouts, New England Mountain Biking Association, Organization for the Assabet River and informal neighborhood groups. Trail maintenance is a year round effort and we have had work crews maintaining existing trails or building trails nearly every month.

One of the most important projects finished by John Gareri, Don Burn, Garry Kessler, Harry Newall and Ellen O'Brien was the complete and accurate location of all the existing trails using the Town's GPS equipment and then translating this data into useful and attractive maps now being distributed at the Library, Town Hall, and other locations.

In November we worked with Eagle Scout Scott Howland to clear a loop trail on the Wile-Libbey property off Carroll Drive, and with volunteers from Fleet Bank to remark sections of the Eypper Loop trail off Bowman St. This April we had a trail construction day to build a connector trail between the Country Club trails off Mill Road to the Gibbons School Trail which now allows walkers to use both trails without being forced to walk on the roads. The same work day saw the placement of additional bog bridging on the south shore of Mill Pond that will permit use of the trail even in the hydro logically challenging circumstances like those faced this year. Additionally, last fall we supported the construction of a scenic connector trail from the Headwaters Conservation Area (HCA) along the south shore of Mill Pond by Eagle Scout Andrew Banks that will supplement existing trails and keeps walkers away from asphalt and access roads.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Submitted by the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is pleased to recommend the following slate to the Board of Directors and Members:

To serve a three year term on the Board of Directors:

Stephen Doret	Ellen O'Brien
Allison Johnson Hall*	Craig Richov
Jonathan Nourse	James Tashjian
John Nunley	Randy Waterman

To serve a two year term on the Board of Directors:

Dr. Robert Hennessy* (2006)

To serve a one year term on the Board of Directors:

John Gareri (2005)

*denotes new to Board of Directors

Note: The purpose of the different terms is to balance our Board's terms of service so that each year we will have eight Director positions to fill.

To serve one year terms as Officers:

President	Kristina Allen
Vice-President	Jonathan Nourse
Secretary	Harry Newell
Treasurer	John Nunley
Vice-Treasurer	Allison Johnson Hall

To serve one year terms as At-Large Members of the Executive Committee:

Sue Wells

Chuck Anastas

Current Members of the Board of Directors:

Term Expiring 2005

Don Burn

Kathleen Donaghue

Leslie Leslie

Harry Newell

Elena Pucciarelli

Judy Rollinson

Sue Wells

Term Expiring 2006

Kristina Allen

Chuck Anastas

Tim Buckalew

Leslie Drohan

Maureen Johnson

Walter Pierson

Bruce Tretter