

# Plan To Save Land

## Four-Town Land Trust Proposed

By DIANE WEAVER DUNNE

A four-town private land trust "devoted to the preservation of significant parcels of land for the good of the communities of Somers, Ellington, East Windsor and Enfield" has been proposed by George Grant, a native of the Melrose section East Windsor.

"Anybody is welcome," to an organizational meeting 7:30 p.m. June 22 at the historic Melrose School on Melrose Road in East Windsor, Mr. Grant said.

A member of the East Windsor Conservation Commission, the Broadbrook Pond Restoration Park and chairman of his town's Historic Properties Commission, Mr. Grant says he has become increasingly concerned about the vanishing agricultural land in the area.

The land acquired for the trust "may be completely natural or used for educational, recreational, conservation, scientific, historical or agricultural purposes," he said.

He noted that some private land trusts in Connecticut have been very successful, while others have failed dismally. "It all depends on whether enough people who feel strongly about land preservation support the effort," Mr. Grant said.

"This has not yet been organized," he said. He said that community input will affect the course of the land trust, explain-

ing a variety of ways to achieve land preservation.

"The organization may acquire land as gifts from individual landowners, developers, organizations or municipalities," Mr. Grant said. "Or (it may) purchase land or receive conservation easements through gifts or purchase."

Andy Zepp, a member of the Nature Conservancy and president of the Middlesex Land Trust, will attend Monday night's meeting to answer questions about establishing land trusts at the June 22 organizational meeting.

The acquisition of open space to preserve the natural character of Enfield was favored by 93 percent of those responding to a planning survey conducted this past winter by C.E. Maguire, the planning consultant firm employed by the town to update Enfield's Master Plan.

The Town Council has allocated \$100,000 for future acquisition of open space in the 1987-88 town budget.

Enfield Mayor Richard LeBorious said he hopes to attend the organizational meeting of the land trust. "I like that kind of effort," he said. "I believe a private land trust can be as effective as one municipally-operated."

He noted that there are significant tax benefits available to landowners who donate to preservation trusts.

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### EAST WINDSOR

## Land trust chooses four incorporators

Four incorporators have been chosen to draft bylaws for a four-town land trust, the trust's initiator, George Grant, said Tuesday.

Grant will represent East Windsor as an incorporator, Ernest Boothroyd will represent Ellington, Jack Collins will represent Enfield and Bill Reynolds will represent Somers.

The 30 residents who attended an organizational meeting Monday heard Andy Zepp of the Nature Conservancy and Robert C. Stewart of Suffield's Land Conservancy speak about the process of forming a trust.

Grant said area residents interested in conserving land may attend the next meeting July 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Melrose School.

The incorporators then will present the bylaws and choose a name and directors for the trust.