



The Four Town Land Trust News



Volume 1 Number 1

East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, and Somers, Connecticut

Spring 1988

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome, friends of the land, to the first issue of the Four Town Land Trust News. I trust that you will find this and future issues of the newsletter interesting and informative. There is no knowing at this point how often it will come out, but I expect it will be in keeping with the amount of news there is to report. A biennial issue seems likely for now.

I suppose the first item I should cover is a little bit of background. As this first newsletter is being sent to a large audience, most of whom don't know the full story, I thought that I would recount the history of the Four Town Land Trust to date.

The 4TLT is not the first preservation group to form in this area- it has two inactive predecessor organizations. The Somers Land Conservation Trust was formed in Somers a number of years ago, but interest was insufficient for the organization to really get off the ground. Conditions have changed now, and a land trust has a much better chance of being successful. The Scantic River Watershed Council was likewise formed some time ago, for the purpose of enhancing the quality of and public awareness of the Scantic River's resources. The area it was concerned with included the towns of South Windsor, East Windsor, Enfield, and Somers, Connecticut, and Hampden, Massachusetts. It was active and successful for several years, but has been inactive lately. A number of officers and directors of the two organizations are now trustees of the 4TLT, and are considering motions to merge their respective groups with ours.

The seeds of the Four Town Land Trust were planted in the spring of 1987, when it was learned that a large local farm was expected to be for sale within the year. Several individuals who did not want to see such a valuable resource developed contacted me, asking in essence, "Isn't there something we can do to save it, or at least save part of it?" Quite a bit of discussion followed over the weeks, and the realization that a lot of the land in the area was threatened led us to the decision to form a nonprofit land trust. The land in question was in more than one town, so the trust would necessarily be multi-town; consideration of geography and of which towns in the area did or did not have land trusts already led to the decision to include East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, and Somers. Membership and protective measures are by no means restricted to those towns, but that is our area of concentration.

A very successful preliminary meeting to determine interest and to gauge what form it would be best to take was held in June, and four incorporators (one from each town) were chosen to develop the necessary documents and so forth. Regular meetings were held, at which objectives and the means for accomplishing them were thoroughly discussed, and the trust incorporated formally on August 27th. Temporary trustees and officers had been selected to serve during the formation period, and permanent trustees and officers were elected for the year at the first annual meeting in September.

Various projects have been initiated along the way, not the least of which was the designing and printing of brochures for the land trust. Albert Grant and Donald Grant did an excellent job on them, and copies of them were subsequently mailed to everybody who had shown an interest in the land trust, as well as being made available to the general public at a display at the Four Town Fair in September. There have been other mailings of brochures since then, they have been placed in various public places, and similar distribution of them will continue. The brochures and other public relations have done much to raise awareness of our organization.

Since last fall, we have been holding trustee meetings every month at the Melrose Schoolhouse on Melrose Road in East Windsor. The building has been made available to us free of charge, and is in a central location freely accessible to area residents. The meetings are open to all, and are held at 7:30 P.M. on the fourth Thursday of every month. The next meeting will be May 26.

Incidentally, in an effort to keep costs down, the 4TLT will not be sending future newsletters to most nonmembers. They will, of course, be sent to some other trusts, public officials, and similar destinations, but most nonmembers will not receive one again. So if you mean to join but haven't gotten to it yet, don't put it off any longer- this may be your last reminder, and if you forget this time you may never do it.

Your President,

George

SQUARE DANCE

The square dance I told you about in the first newsletter was held as promised on June 3rd, and despite the rain can be considered a success. The attendance was low enough - probably because of the rain - that we only did a little better than break even, but the people who did come enjoyed themselves immensely. They had so much fun, in fact, that by popular demand another was held on August 5th and a third on October 28th.

All three dances were held at Jack Collins' farm in Enfield and featured caller Ralph Sweet, live music, and plenty of refreshments. The August dance was much better attended than the June one despite the heat, approaching the barn's capacity of a hundred dancers. The October dance being on Halloween weekend, it was a costume square dance, and prizes were awarded for the best costumes. First prize went to a cow which had Tim McGuire inside of it. First prize for children went to Pippi Longstocking, who was played by Sarah Humphries. The attendance wasn't quite as high as for the August dance, but was still quite good.

We'd like to continue holding dances, but with winter here and Collins' barn unheated the cold could be a problem. As a remedy, Ralph Sweet has offered to hold a joint dance in his barn in Powder Hollow during the winter, and the directors have decided to take him up on it. The details haven't been decided yet, but notice will be sent out when we have them. His barn is just down the hill and across the river from Jack's farm, which is on Powder Hill.

ANNUAL MEETING HELD

The Four Town Land Trust held its second annual meeting September 29th at the Melrose Schoolhouse. It was a supper meeting, with members bringing a good selection of food, potluck style. After the meal, we were treated to a presentation by George Malia on the state's Purchase of Development Rights program. Questions and discussion followed, and those present learned a lot about the current status of the state's preservation of farmland.

The business meeting followed, and here's what happened:

-Arend-Jan Knuttel and William Reynolds were reelected as Directors and Linda Allegro and Tex Mulnita were elected as new Directors for the Land Trust.

-A slight revision to the bylaws concerning membership was adopted.

-A slate of officers was elected, comprised of the following:

President - George Grant

Vice President - Don Smith

Secretary - Ruth Phillips-Grant and Lois Osier


Treasurer - Albert Grant

Director-at-large - Jack Collins

-The meeting dates for the monthly directors meetings were changed to the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 P.M. at the Melrose Schoolhouse. That means our next few meetings will be held on ^VJanuary 24th, February 28th, and March 28th. The meetings are open, and all are encouraged to attend. December 27th

**THE FOUR TOWN LAND TRUST NEWS is published by the
Four Town Land Trust, Inc., Melrose, CT Editor: George Grant**

All comments contained herein are those of the editor and are not necessarily those of the Trust.

 THE FOUR TOWN
LAND TRUST, INC.
MELROSE, CT 06049

MR & MRS PHILIP & SELMA GRANT
191 MELROSE RD.
MELROSE, CT 06049

SQUARE DANCE