



The Landmark



The Fifth Town of the Four Town Land Trust

If you looked closely at the fine print of this edition of The Landmark, you already know which decision was made at the special meeting we held in January - we decided to formally add Stafford to the Land Trust and change our name to the Five Town Land Trust, Inc. The Certificate of Amendment has not been filed with the state yet, but it will be shortly.

It will take some time for all of us to get used to the changed name, and it will be a while before it is changed everywhere. Fortunately we only have one sign to be changed, that at the Skyline Scenic Area and Nature Preserve. We also have brochures, applications, and envelopes, but we expect we'll add the five to those and use them up. The hardest thing is going to be changing our name on everybody's mailing lists, but that will come too.

Difficulties aside, the change is certainly a positive one. With twice the land area of any four town land trust, Stafford enlarges our base by about a third. As intensively developed as some parts of Stafford are, the town remains largely rural, with extensive areas containing little or no development at all. Therefore, there is still time to make a big difference if we work at it, unlike many towns in the state where land preservation is more of a rearward action. All in all, both Stafford and the Land Trust should gain from its inclusion.

AMC Hike to be Held on Land Trust Land

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), a regional organization which maintains trails and sponsors hikes, among other things, is holding a 9 mile hike in the area on May 19. It will start at the intersection of Root and Stafford Roads in Somers and form a loop up into Hampden on two ridges in the area, following the trail on our land on the way north and again on the way back.

We will hike along Minnechoog Mountain (the ridge in Hampden of which our ridge is the southernmost extension) to a dam on the Scentic River. On the way back, we'll climb Pine Mountain and Rattiasnake Mountain and visit the Indian Rock. The entire route will include about 2000 feet of climbing, so come prepared for a real hike! Anyone who doesn't want to hike the full distance can take a shortcut which will make the total distance about 7 miles and cut out most of the climb. It will take all day, so bring a lunch and all the water you'll need.

Anybody who wishes to come is welcome, and Ed Dresner, my contact with the AMC, especially wanted me to invite anybody in the Land Trust who would like to come along. Everybody is to meet at the CBT at the intersection of 83 and 190 in the center of Somers at 9:30 and go in a group from there. For further information, call Ed at

THE FIVE TOWN
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MELROSE, CT 06049



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Win a "T" Shirt!
by Don Smith

Join our "T" shirt contest! We are going to sell T shirts with a logo on both the back and front. We need your design. If you submit the winning logo you win a "T" shirt. Please submit all designs to Don Smith, 103 Parker Road, Somers, CT 06071 by April 15.

There will shortly be an added incentive to attend, as we plan to have special programs on a quarterly basis, at our March, June, September, and December meetings. Topics will vary, but all will have some bearing on what we are trying to accomplish, and we intend to make all of them interesting. If you have any ideas for a program, please let us know about it. Incidentally, our first program will be at this year's June meeting.

Some of the things you can get involved in include our upcoming Farm Tour and the other events we hold, trail maintenance, writing articles for The Landmark, liaison with town governments and commissions, spreading the word about the Land Trust and its mission, or something you feel should be done that we haven't thought of yet.

If nothing I've mentioned sounds appealing but you'd still like to get involved, perhaps the best way to do it is to attend one of our monthly meetings. They are held at the Melrose Schoolhouse on Melrose Road in East Windsor at 7:30 on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

Given that, you can help to preserve land by getting involved in the Land Trust. We have a lot of things we want to do, but the main obstacle to doing most of them is a lack of available volunteer hours.

What Can I Do To Help?

If you've joined the Land Trust, it's because you believe in preserving land in this area. Given that, you can help to preserve land by getting involved in the Land Trust. We have a lot of things we want to do, but the main obstacle to doing most of them is a lack of available volunteer hours.

ATC has also received permission from the Five Town Land Trust to replace the trail on our land orange and include it as a loop of the Algonquin Trail, so don't be surprised if you go out there some time and are tempted to say, "What the blazes? They're not white any more!"

872-4120. We hope to see you there!