



# The Landmark



SUMMER 1992

## NEWS FROM THE FIVE TOWN LAND TRUST

### GREETINGS

These are exciting times for the Five Town Land Trust. A feature article in the Sunday Hartford Courant received many favorable comments and an increased awareness and better understanding of the aims and functions of our Land Trust. We have a tentative offer of land in Stafford as a result of the exposure from this article.

The Board of Directors continues to pursue other possibilities and leads for land acquisition on an ongoing basis. Several parcels have been looked at on maps/surveys and also have been personally walked. An A2 survey has been completed on the Skyline Scenic Area in Somers with pins at the corners. This very expensive and necessary survey was graciously donated by Schindler Surveys of Ellington.

Our series of public walks this Summer has certainly accomplished its objective of demonstrating the benefits of preserving open space habitats in a region surrounded by residential development, and of increasing the public's awareness of the Land Trust. In July, 75 people joined Jerry Stage at the beaver pond and Soapstone Mountain. In August, George Grant led 25 people to the black spruce bog in East Windsor.

Two more outings are planned. On Saturday, September 19th meet at 11:00 a.m. at the water tower at the intersection of Melrose & Grant Roads, 1/2 mile west of the intersection of Rts. 140 & 191. Albert Grant will lead a family hike (bring trail lunch) to explore a portion of the new Scantic River Park and Recreation Area. And on Saturday, October 17 we will canoe the Scantic River. Bring canoe, life preservers and lunch to the meeting point at the Somersville Dam (intersection of School & Maple Streets, Somersville) at 11:00 a.m. Invite your friends and neighbors for some outdoor fun.

The Land Trust meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Old Melrose School at 7:30 p.m. This is on Rt. 140 near the junction of Rts. 140 and 191, across from the Grant Farm. All members and interested parties are welcome to these meetings. Please come!

### ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting will be on September 27th @ 5:00 p.m. at the Melrose Schoolhouse. Bring a hot dish, salad or dessert and your own utensils for a pot-luck supper. This will be followed by a speaker from Nature Conservancy and our annual business meeting. Members, families and friends are invited.

### LAND PRESERVATION UPDATE

The Directors have walked over two parcels of land in the past two months, both in Somers. As these are still being actively pursued, we must wait further developments before we can be more specific. We are hoping to receive a conservation easement on 150 acres in Stafford and another parcel along the Willimantic River in Stafford. There are other parcels under consideration in Enfield and East Windsor.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Land Trusts by nature are not fast moving! Many gifts are promised but must wait for individuals to decide to take this very important step in their lives, but look at the advantages! Not only are there immediate cash benefits such as a charitable contribution deduct in the current tax year and for five succeeding years, but a release from local property taxes on the donated land. The other intangible but very important aspect of a donation is the knowledge that the donor has preserved the land for future generations, to remain essentially the same as they knew this land.

These advantages may be realized by either an outright gift or a conservation easement to the Land Trust, where the donor retains ownership but gives up certain rights such as development, timber or mining, etc. These will also reduce the valuation on the property, and should be considered is an outright gift is not made.

Presently the need for an endowment to be retained by the Five Town Land Trust for purposes of land management and protection has become increasingly important. The possibility of a need to protect gifts of land from encroachment by neighboring land owners is always present. Timber harvesters are not the best surveyors, and boundaries must be marked and walked to guard against unwanted incursions. To be a full service Land Trust we must be able to assure donors that their gift will be protected as well as appreciated by future generations.

To this end, the Board of Directors has established a fund, apart from operating funds, for the purpose of land acquisition / protection. This was announced to the public in the First Quarter 1992 and the response from solicitation has been favorable. We urge you to consider this need and add extra dollars to your annual dues payment or to plan in your annual giving.

---

THE LANDMARK IS PUBLISHED BY THE FIVE TOWN LAND TRUST, INC.  
All comments contained herein are those of the Editor and are not necessarily those of the Land Trust.



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

