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CHARLOTTE LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 43, Charlotte, VT 05445

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ESTABLISHED 1986

REPORT TO OUR NEIGHBORS JANUARY 2013 TO MARCH 2014

Helping to Protect and Preserve the Rural,
Agricultural Landscape of Charlotte



Some of the many fruits and vegetables grown on conserved land in Charlotte.

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

2013 was another busy year for the Charlotte Land Trust. Interest in conservation (through easement donation and purchase) remains high among landowners in Charlotte. Equally important is the interest and support for conservation by the Town and by our donors. Without this support, we would not be able to respond to the opportunities that come up. The more intangible aspects of support for our work are what fuel us and keep us enthusiastic. We truly consider you our partners and that makes a great deal of difference. Thank you.

The Board of the Charlotte Land Trust

CONSERVATION

Several projects began in 2013 and while they aren't yet ready for publicity, some will likely be reported on in our report for 2014. We continue to have a good mix of agricultural and natural area projects, across several areas of Town. Project sizes range too, with the smaller ones as CLT projects and the larger in partnership with statewide conservation organizations. The ability to respond to smaller, locally significant projects is one of the advantages of having a local land trust. Strong partnerships with the statewide land trusts ensure that we can tackle the larger and more complex projects, as well.

At the end of 2013 George Burrill and Lola Van Wagenen donated an easement to CLT on approximately 24 acres of land on Higbee Road. The land is significant for its wetlands and wildlife habitat, as well as sand over clay clayplain forest, a relatively uncommon variant of a forest type that was once dominant in the Champlain Valley. George and Lola's stewardship of their land and their generosity in donating a conservation easement are much appreciated.

Donated easements, such as the one from George and Lola, are an incredible gift and



Photography students at a winter workshop sponsored by CLT on conserved land.

mean that we are not fundraising for the purchase of an easement. There are, however, still expenses for CLT, including ecological assessments, mapping and closing costs. The generosity of our donors makes it possible for CLT to do a thorough job on all of our easements, whether purchased or donated.

OUTREACH

CLT continued to work with the Selectboard and other town committees in 2013 on the Town's Conservation Fund. We submit a yearly report to the Selectboard outlining the trends and issues that affect conservation and funding sources. We also submit a potential project list (no landowner names are used on this list) so that the Selectboard can plan for allocations to the Conservation Fund.

Last year CLT sponsored a series of photography workshops, led by professional photographers and using conserved lands as workshop sites. Another will take place in the spring. For more information and registration check our website at: www.charlottelandtrust.org. We also began a monthly feature in the Charlotte News showcasing photos of Charlotte landscapes. Everyone is invited to submit favorite scenes from around town (it doesn't have to be conserved land).

CLT sponsored a very successful bike tour of Charlotte as part of 2012's 250th anniversary celebration of the town charter and in 2013 we again made maps available for

self-guided tours. This is a wonderful way to enjoy our landscape and learn more about our conserved properties.

One of our favorite events is the annual Town Party when we have a chance to meet many of you and to hear your questions and ideas. We'll be there again in 2014 and will be putting out our red signs marking conserved lands around town in the weeks before and after the party.

ORGANIZATION

In 2013, CLT began participating in a new program of conservation easement defense insurance, sponsored by the national Land Trust Alliance. The need to take legal action in defense of easement conditions is rare, but when it does occur it can be extremely complex and expensive. Easement defense insurance provides protection for land trusts and makes the difference in the long-term viability of an organization after such an event. There are stringent qualifications for obtaining this insurance and CLT is pleased that we were able to meet those requirements.

Whenever I see those red signs I just want to write those landowners a thank you note!

Comment overheard at the 2013 Town Party

Organizationally, our biggest change in 2013 was not having our longtime board president, Frances Foster, in that position (although she remains on the board). We did not have a president in 2013 but rotated leadership of meetings throughout the year. We have a very good mix of talents on the Board and a well functioning team approach to getting things done. Our work over the past several years on strategic

planning, policies and procedures and yearly task management has paid off in keeping things running smoothly. Will we continue this rotating leadership? Most likely not, but we are confident that we are meeting our goals as we make the transition.

At the end of 2013 we were very pleased to welcome David Watts as our newest member of the Board.



One of four red signs highlighting a conserved property, July 2013



Burrill Property: CLT's newest conservation easement.

2013 INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME

Contributions		
Unrestricted & Other income		\$23,781
Nichols and Hinsdale Farm Projects		2,500
Memorial Gifts		100
Interest and Dividends		742
Total Income		\$27,123

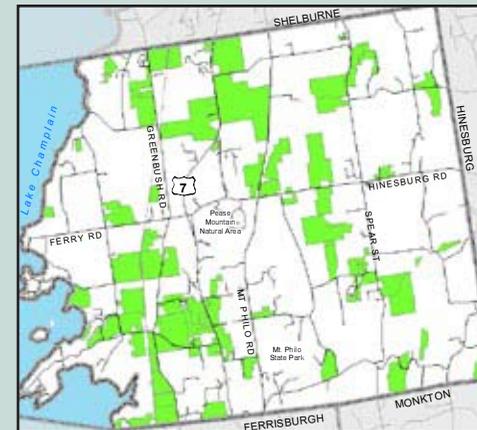
EXPENSES

Burrill Easement		\$2,315
Outreach		1,739
Program Subtotal	38%	\$4,054
Fundraising	22%	2,353
Administration	40%	4,182
Total Expenses	100%	\$10,589

Total Assets	1/1/2013	\$206,267
Total Assess	12/31/2013*	222,801
*Includes Stewardship Fund \$94,072		

SPECIAL THANKS:
Logo: Family of Rockwell Kent
Layout: Janice Heilmann
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 Jane Lawlis
 Don Lockhart
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 Frances Foster
 Jessie Bradley

Town of Charlotte Conserved Land, March 2014



Easements with the Vermont Land Trust, Charlotte Land Trust, Lake Champlain Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy. Source: Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

YES! I will help preserve the natural and rural beauty of Charlotte by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Charlotte Land Trust at the following level:

- Benefactor \$2500 Friend \$100
 Supporter \$1000 Contributor \$50
 Sustaining \$500 Other \$_____

Please provide the following information and mail, along with your check, to Charlotte Land Trust, P.O. Box 43, Charlotte, VT 05445.

 Name

 Street Address

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Please contact me to discuss: conservation of my land, donating development rights, or other planned giving opportunities.

I would like my gift to remain anonymous.

Info@CharlotteLandTrust.org