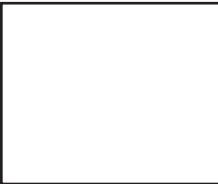


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Dylan Preston on his recently conserved farm.

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REPORT TO OUR NEIGHBORS JANUARY 2016 TO MARCH 2017

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

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

2016 marked another year of strong support for conservation in Charlotte. The Town's longstanding commitment to protecting the best of our agricultural, natural and scenic areas has resulted in a landscape more attractive, more resilient and more balanced than would have evolved without that commitment. To all of you who have supported our work, who have supported the Conservation Fund and other preservation initiatives and who have been good stewards of your own land, a very big thank you. The board of the Charlotte Land Trust is honored to be your partner.

No Charlotter exemplified the conservation ethic more clearly than Larry Hamilton, who passed away in 2016. His knowledge, dedication and his wonderful talent as an educator made us all more aware and engaged in protecting our natural environment. Larry's sense of humor and wisdom kept the focus on what we could do to protect our landscape, rather than on what had been lost. For all this and more, we are grateful for his time with us.

The Charlotte Land Trust Board of Directors

CONSERVATION

The biggest news in 2016 was not a specific project but the reauthorization of the Charlotte Conservation Fund. For twenty years the Fund has been instrumental in helping preserve the very best of Charlotte's landscape. It has provided significant leverage for other grants, in particular through the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. The Fund has made possible a wide range of projects and has been part of Charlotte's success in helping young farmers get started here in town.

One such Conservation Fund success story, which was our main project focus in 2016, was the conservation of 100 acres of very good farmland owned by Clark Hinsdale. By the time you read this report, it will have been transferred to Dylan and Ward Preston, as the site of Dylan's first farm. CLT worked with the Vermont Land



CLT 2016 Board: (l to r) Kate Lampton, Jane Lavelis, Mary Volk, Lindsay Longe, Frances Foster, Marty Illick, David Watts. Missing: Jane Kiley, Edd Merritt, Jessie Price, David Pill.

Trust, which will hold the conservation easement. The project will also include a trail easement to the Town as a possible future link to East Charlotte and Mt. Philo.

The Hinsdale/Preston project is a great illustration of the ways that conservation projects come together. CLT frequently partners with the Vermont Land Trust and other statewide conservation groups to do more complex projects than we could do on our own. Projects often have multiple objectives and benefits. This project was focused on conserving excellent ag soils, but it also had the additional public benefit of a trail easement to the Town.

Conservation projects are also very collaborative and the Hinsdale/Preston project is a wonderful example of that. The land trusts, the Town, the town committees that review Conservation Fund applications and those involved with the other grants to the project all worked together to bring the project to a successful end. Important as those collaborations are, none is as important as that of the landowner, Clark Hinsdale, and the buyers, Dylan and Ward Preston, with all the other parties. Without Clark, Dylan and Ward's commitment to seeing the land conserved there wouldn't have been a project. All of us at CLT appreciate that commitment.

Discussions with several landowners about conservation of their properties took place in 2016, with some of these likely to move forward in the next few years. We encourage landowners to contact us with ideas and questions about conservation options.

OUTREACH

This past fall CLT hosted a walk at Raven Ridge, a Nature Conservancy property, for some of our longtime donors. The walk was lead by a Nature Conservancy naturalist. One of the strengths of the conservation community in Vermont is its strong tradition of collaboration, something that is particularly helpful for small land trusts such as ours. The walk ended with soup and snacks at the nearby home of board member David Pill and Hillary Maharam. Many thanks to David and Hillary for being our hosts. The afternoon was a big success and we hope to hold other walks in the coming months.

ORGANIZATION

As a small, all-volunteer land trust we work hard to make sure that our organization and administration are effective and efficient. Throughout the year we concentrate on various best practices and policies as recommended by the Land Trust Alliance, the leading conserva-

tion trade organization. In 2016, we reviewed and updated our policy on conservation easement amendments. Although amendments are very rare, a policy with clear criteria, process and standards is essential.

In 2016, Jane Kiley joined CLT as a board member. We look forward to her expertise and experience on the board.

2016 Board of Directors

Frances Foster Edd Merritt
Marty Illick Jessie Price
Jane Kiley David Pill
Kate Lampton Mary Volk
Jane Lawlis David Watts
Lindsay Longe

Directors Emeritus

Betty Ann Lockhart
Huntingdon Sheldon



The view from Raven Ridge, a property conserved by the Nature Conservancy with assistance from the Charlotte Land Trust, in 2010.



Larry Hamilton, an avid supporter of CLT and lover of nature, paddles his canoe on a pristine Adirondack Lake. We will miss his humor and his wisdom.

2016 INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME

Contributions	
Restricted	2,100
Unrestricted	\$20,655
Interest and Dividends	1,297
Annual Town Contribution	1,840
Total Income	\$25,892

EXPENSES

Outreach	1,761
Fundraising	2,642
Administration	2,552
Total Expenses	\$6,955

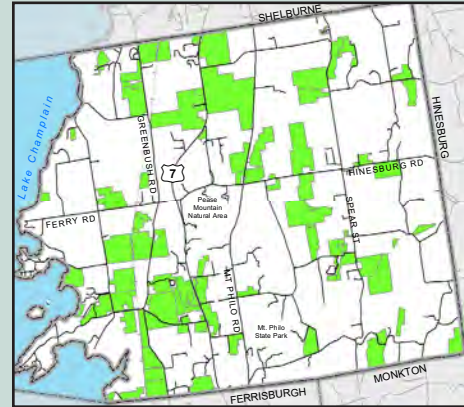
Total Assets	1/1/2016	\$273,694
Total Assets	12/31/2016*	*292,630

*Includes Stewardship Fund	\$100,730
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SPECIAL THANKS:

Logo: Family of Rockwell Kent
Layout: Janice Heilmann
Photos: Al Karnatz, Linda Hamilton
Frances Foster

Town of Charlotte Conserved Land, March 2017



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
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☐ I would like my gift to remain anonymous.

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