



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187
www.ellington-ct.gov

TEL. (860) 870-3120 TOWN PLANNER'S OFFICE FAX (860) 870-3122

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025, 7:00 P.M.

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT
REMOTE ATTENDANCE: VIA ZOOM MEETING, INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BELOW

I. CALL TO ORDER:

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (On Non-Agenda Items):

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Plan of Conservation & Development, Chapter 4-Conservation Strategies, Natural Resource Preservation: Historic Preservation.
2. Report - Farmland Preservation Program.
3. Report - Open Space Preservation Program.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY 24-25 Budget & Expenditure Update.
 - a. Request to approve annual contribution to the Connecticut Land Conservation Council.
 - b. Request to approve annual contribution to the Connecticut Farm Bureau.
2. Correspondence/Discussion:
 - a. Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee – Monthly Minutes.
 - b. Connecticut Farm Bureau – Oakridge Dairy receives Workforce Development Award article.
 - c. Connecticut Farm Bureau, From the Farm, December 2024 / Volume 39, Issue 4.
 - d. Connecticut Land Conservation Council – Updates & Highlights.
3. Approval of November 12, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.
4. Election of Officers.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Next Meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2025

Instructions to attend remotely via Zoom Meeting listed below. The agenda is posted on the Town of Ellington webpage (www.ellington-ct.gov) under Agenda & Minutes, Conservation Commission.

Join Zoom Meeting via Link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87133393964>
Meeting ID: 871 3339 3964
Passcode: 817579

Join Zoom Meeting by Phone:
1-646-558-8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 871 3339 3964
Passcode: 817579

COMMISSIONERS: TO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING QUORUMS REQUIRED TO CONDUCT MEETINGS, PLEASE CONTACT THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND A SCHEDULED MEETING.

Town of Ellington

General Ledger - On Demand Report

Fiscal Year: 2024-2025

From Date: 7/1/2024 To Date: 12/31/2024

Account Mask: ?????00270???????

Print accounts with zero balance
 Include Inactive Accounts
 Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range
 Print Detail
 Include PreEncumbrance

Account Number / Description	Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	% Remaining	Bud
1000.02.00270.10.50103	\$1,600.00	\$390.00	\$390.00	\$1,210.00	\$0.00		\$1,210.00
Part Time--Conservation Commission--						75.63%	
1000.02.00270.20.60221	\$400.00	\$198.00	\$198.00	\$202.00	\$0.00		\$202.00
Advertising Printing--Conservation Commission--						50.50%	
1000.02.00270.20.60222	\$1,350.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$450.00	\$0.00		\$450.00
Dues & Subscriptions--Conservation Commission--						33.33%	
1000.02.00270.20.60223	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Travel--Conservation Commission--						0.00%	
1000.02.00270.20.60234	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Professional Development--Conservation Commission						0.00%	
1000.02.00270.20.60250	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Contracted Services--Conservation Commission--						0.00%	
1000.02.00270.20.60254	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
St of CT Surcharges--Conservation Commission--						0.00%	
1000.02.00270.20.60341	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Office Supplies--Conservation Commission--						0.00%	
1000.02.00270.30.60341	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Office Supplies--Conservation Commission--						0.00%	
Fund: 1000	\$3,350.00	\$1,488.00	\$1,488.00	\$1,862.00	\$0.00		\$1,862.00

Town of Ellington

General Ledger - On Demand Report

Fiscal Year: 2024-2025 From Date:7/1/2024 To Date:12/31/2024

Account Mask: ?????00270???????

Account Type: All

Print accounts with zero balance

Include Inactive Accounts

Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range

Print Detail Include PreEncumbrance

Account Number / Description

	Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	% Remaining	Bud
Grand Total:	\$3,350.00	\$1,488.00	\$1,488.00	\$1,862.00	\$0.00		\$1,862.00

End of Report

**Donate securely online or
submit your gift using
this envelope.**

860-852-5512
ctconservation.org

Yes, I/we want to make a difference and strengthen land conservation policy and funding, support land trusts, and accelerate conservation statewide.

Name/Organization Town of Ellington Conservation Commission
(as you wish to be acknowledged)
Address 57 Main St.
City Ellington State CT Zip 06029
Phone 860-870-3120
E-mail JColanese@Ellington-CT.gov

Some people are surprised to know that donations of stock can save them as much as 70% on taxes; others find that gifts via their IRA can avoid triggering taxes and maximize their impact. It's easy to do. Check out our website: ctconservation.org.

**You can make a difference.
Be a hero each month!**
I want to help increase the pace of conservation year-round.
Please charge my credit card for _____ months at \$ _____ per month, starting _____ [month].
A minimum \$5 monthly contribution is required to participate.

\$2,500 \$1,000 \$750 \$500
 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other \$ 450.00

My check payable to **Connecticut Land Conservation Council** is enclosed.
 Contribution to my credit card: Visa Mastercard

Name (as it appears on card) _____
Card Number _____
Exp. Date ____/____/____ CW _____ Billing Zip Code _____
Amount of Charge \$ _____ Signature _____

- My employer will match my gift to Connecticut Land Conservation Council and I have enclosed their matching gift form.
- Please keep my gift anonymous.
- I'm interested in giving stocks, bonds, property, or other appreciated assets. Please contact me for more details.

Your gift matters. Contributions of any size are welcome and make a difference. Your gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. Our financial statements are available upon request.

AS A CT DAIRY FARMER,
I UNDERSTAND THE VALUE
OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION.

THANKS FOR CONSIDERING!

Felicia Chesmer, Lebanon



CONNECTICUT
FARMLAND
T R U S T

PRESERVING CONNECTICUT FARMLAND FOR FARMERS

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Nicholas Moore
Sharon

Joan Nichols
CT Farm Bureau, Wethersfield

Dr. James Shepherd
Smokedown Farm, Sharon

Tim Slate
Kahn Tractor, Franklin

November 15, 2024

Dear Lisa,

Farmland adds depth to our lives. Locally grown food, a healthy community, and a strong economy all rely on Connecticut farms. You could probably come up with a list of 10 more things yourself. You know farmland's true value.

Yet our society's idea of "value" hasn't caught up with yours and mine. And there are consequences for undervaluing farmland.

By one estimate, 55,000 acres of Connecticut farmland will be lost by 2040 at our current rate of clearing farms and their woodlots. Natural forces need 1,000 years to build one inch of rich, productive soil; bulldozers can destroy fertile farmland in minutes.

Fortunately, you are among a unique circle of influential people in Connecticut – having supported Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT) in the past.

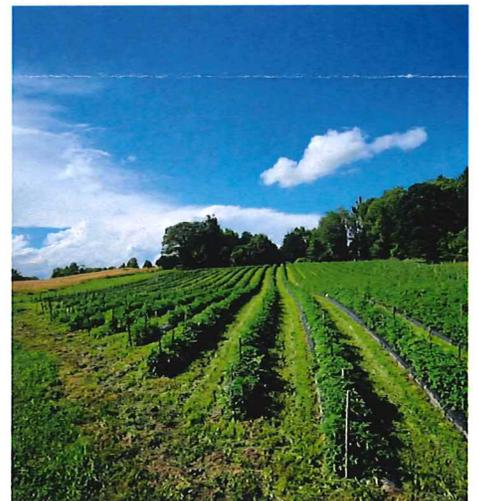
Today I'm inviting you to make a special end-of-year gift of \$250.

You are invited to help create an alternate vision of farmland and farm viability for future generations in Connecticut.

Patrick Horan, one of Waldingfield Farm's farmers in Washington, summed up the stakes of not acting: *"Once the ability to grow locally disappears, one becomes reliant on a food system dedicated to something other than community."*

The conservation process takes time. Donations like yours helped CFT to be responsive during the years it took for Damaris and John Horan in Washington to preserve 76 acres of Waldingfield Farm, for farming forever. And the results will last lifetimes.

Your donation is the most important step in the conservation process.



Waldingfield Farm in Washington

(over)

Your gift seeds the years of advance work that CFT needs before a farmland owner is ready to enter into a voluntary, yet binding, conservation agreement called an “agricultural easement.” And when it comes time to pay for that easement, over the past 22 years, CFT has leveraged \$17.50 from partners for every \$1 CFT spent on acquiring an easement.

Do you know that the average age of a Connecticut farmland owner is 58 and more than 90% of “senior farmers” do not have a younger farmer ready to take over?

Fortunately, there are many new farmers eager to get started. Your gift also helps power CFT’s Farmland Access Program coordinator, Kae Vargas, matching farmland seekers to farmland owners. Through a partnership with the Department of Agriculture’s CT FarmLink program, Mr. Vargas also connects seekers and owners to soil and crop suitability analysis, grant funding, and leasing consultation services.

An example of a match happened when a Milford farm lost its dedicated farmer of 35 years this past summer and Mr. Vargas quickly went to work designing a “farm open house.” He made two matches in one day, including one for a 2.8-acre parcel for the Somali Bantu Community to grow vegetables using indigenous Somali Bantu farming practices.

You can make farming viable in Connecticut for future generations. I invite you to make a special end-of-year gift of \$250.

I do need your help right away. Fully 85% of our expenses are paid with charitable donations. And 20% of those gifts come at the end of the year. We need to raise \$110,000 by December 31st. With your help, I know we can start 2025 full steam ahead.

CFT relies on multiple partnerships to do – and continue – our work. But Lisa, our most important partnership *is with you.*

Our vision of farmland for future generations only takes shape with your help. Please make a gift to Connecticut Farmland Trust today.

Best wishes for the holiday season,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elisabeth Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Elisabeth Moore
Executive Director

P.S. Lisa, your gift of \$250 could make a huge difference toward our \$110,000 goal this December. Please, while you have my letter in your hand, fill out the reply envelope and send a gift, or donate online using the code below or at this website — <https://bit.ly/ProtectCTFarmland>

Scan this code with your
smartphone's camera to make
a secure gift online NOW!





STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

CHAIRMAN
LINDA ANDERSON

VICE CHAIRMAN
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM

SECRETARY
DEANNA WAMBOLT-GULICK

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

VALERIE AMSEL
JUDI MANFRE
DONNA ALLEN
LINDSAY NEUBECKER
BILL SCHULTZ
TOM PALSHAW
DAN CHAMBERLIN
ROBERT BARONE
ANN HARFORD
MICHAEL EMONS
STEVEN AUSTIN
STUART LANZ

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2024
Town Hall Meeting Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Anderson, Tom Palshaw, Cynthia van Zelm, Donna Allen, Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Robert Barone, Bill Schultz, Ann Harford, Steven Austin, Michael Emons

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judi Manfre, Valerie Amsel, Dan Chamberlin, Lindsay Neubecker, Stuart Lanz

I. Call to Order

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

II. Citizens' Forum

No citizens wished to speak at this time.

III. Welcome of New Members

Ms. Anderson led the Committee in introducing themselves and in introducing the three new members.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. October 2, 2024

MOVED (ANDERSON), SECONDED (ALLEN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2024 MEETING.

V. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Crew

Ms. Harford shared that a rotted bridge is currently being worked on; it has been extended, as it was in a wet area. There is an underlying brace that needs to be shored up, likely next week. Ms. Anderson noted that the bridge replacement is on the Committee's radar.

Mr. Palshaw gave a shout out to Public Works for addressing a tree that needed to be removed.

Ms. Harford continued that roughly 100 pavers were donated by Ms. Amsel, which were cemented into place. The Committee thanked Ms. Amsel for this generous donation.

At the Pinney Field entrance, Ms. Anderson requests that signage indicating "No Hunting" and "No Motorized Vehicles" be added to the kiosk in the parking lot. It was confirmed that Pinney Field is the new official entrance to the trail. Mr. Palshaw recommended that the signage be updated to help direct cars to the correct parking area and signage to indicate the entrance and kiosk.

1. Blazing Windermere

It was confirmed between Ms. Anderson and Mr. Palshaw that Windermere is fully blazed, and that the blaze color is yellow. Mr. Barone added that there are a lot of areas that are not official parts of the trail, which may add confusion. Mr. Palshaw will verify the blazing to ensure clarity.

2. Car Placard

Ms. Anderson shared that there is a car placard on the trail; Mr. Palshaw will look into the sign and address any changes that are needed.

B. Handrails

There was nothing new reported at this time.

C. Conservation Commission Report

Ms. Harford shared a suggestion that the blue trail of Kimball go across Route 140, with a safe crossing added there. Ms. Anderson shared concerns about the logistics given the jurisdiction of the project. Ms. Harford stated that it will be requested regardless.

The Commission received a grant acknowledging the 100 oldest homes in Ellington. It is unclear what the grant will supply, but the State recommended that the list be expanded to include even more historic homes.

D. Kiosks

Ms. Anderson shared that she is talking to Rebecca Davis from MapGeo regarding changes to the maps, due to recent updates and changes to the trails. She is planning to get those fine-tuned before going to the library and getting the updated maps to put into the kiosks.

Ms. Anderson added that Mr. Lanz mentioned that it would be a good idea to add info to the kiosks that address how to read a blaze. She also noted that the QR codes on the kiosks will also need to be changed for any trail that is updated. The Metcalf Trail information/code likely won't need to be updated, as there haven't been any changes there, but all others will likely need updating. Ms. Anderson also intends to update the kiosks to include "No Hunting" and "No Motorized Vehicles" signage.

E. Emergency Signs

Mr. Palshaw shared that this item has been largely turned over to the 911 Coordinator, who is working on getting it published. The next step would be to measure and add signage on Ellington Highlands.

Ms. Anderson asked to what extent the Resident Trooper/Troop C had been brought into the conversation. Mr. Palshaw said that any briefings or conversations will be had once it is published, at which point the information will be shared both digitally and in print form.

F. Maps

Ms. Anderson shared her plans to meet with Rebecca from MapGeo to tweak the current maps and begin the mapping for Ellington Highlands.

G. Road Signs

Ms. Anderson shared that the Ellington Highlands signs are up, as are the Windermere signs.

H. Easements for West Road/Franklin

There was no update at this time.

I. Eagle Scout Projects

1. Ellington Highlands

Ms. Anderson shared that the picnic area is all done and had shared pictures with the Committee. It is a beautiful project, and the Committee thanks Andrew Bowen for this addition to the trail.

2. Batz Game Tables

Ms. Anderson shared that this project is complete; the tables are in and secured with keys and cement. Some chess pieces and checkers were purchased for use. Ms. Anderson shared her thought of conducting a chess tournament in the new space. The Committee thanks Jonathan Delial for this addition to the space.

3. Inground Bee Hotel

Ms. Anderson shared that this project is underway but will not be completed until next year.

J. Mowing and Gates

Ms. Anderson shared that she was able to walk the town trails with a member of Public Works, going over what should be mowed and when.

At Batz, she shared that the fields with the bluebird houses will be mowed every other year, beginning this year. The Pollinator Pathway will be mowed every May and will hopefully be able to continue to reseed itself. The other fields will be mowed as necessary, though she noted that one of the fields is heavily impacted by invasives. Ms. Anderson shared that there is potential to expand access for a grant to obtain pesticides to spray to control some of the invasives in the fields; she will monitor that possibility. The fields by the picnic tables at Ellington Highlands will be mowed, especially kept clear by the tables. Public Works will utilize money from the Trails Budget to purchase a gate to block off a nearby path that leads down to a neighboring house, with a combination lock put on it. There is a great view by the tables but it is currently blocked by brush; Public Works is planning to clear out that brush, up to the Town Line.

At Crystal Ridge, Ms. Anderson showed where the two new gates (purchased by Public Works with Trails funds) should go; these will hopefully be installed by winter.

Ms. Allen asked about mowing at Ellington Highlands. Ms. Anderson asked the members about not mowing the third field, noting the benefit of that field being returned to nature. It sees a lot of animal use, and the ecosystem would benefit from being left alone, which the Committee agreed with.

K. Blazing at Ellington Highlands – October 12th

Ms. Anderson shared that this was done with the Green Earth Club's help – Bill Schultz, Josh, Jay, and Stu Lanz. The Orange Trail was blazed, along with the White Trail. While Ms. Allen was painting the Orange Trail, it was turning out more of a peach color, which made it tricky to see. Ms. Allen and Ms. Anderson went back in with a brighter color to make the blazes more visible.

Ms. Anderson noticed that some of the blue blazing needs more color added and suggested that this be done in the spring.

L. Bluebird Houses at Batz – October 26th

Ms. Anderson shared that these were installed on October 26th; Ms. Amsel was present along with Ms. Neubecker. Five houses have been added to the field behind the community gardens. Four more houses were put up in the Amphitheater field. They were installed with guidance from DEEP to ensure that they were done in the best way. Ms. Anderson reiterated that these fields will be mowed in odd years, in October. The Committee would like to thank Pack 96 of Ellington and Pack 83 of Somers – an extra big thank you to Somers, as they made these bird houses.

V. New Business**A. 2025 Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Anderson presented the proposed schedule, noting that nothing had changed from the typical dates from previous years.

MOVED (HARFORD), SECONDED (SCHULTZ) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE.

B. Annual Town Report

The Committee would like to thank the Town for including beautiful color pictures of the Committee's work in the Annual Report.

C. Blazing Information & Trail Information

Mr. Austin suggested that the Committee share some information with the public, perhaps via social media, about the blazes used. Mr. Schultz suggested adding any trails possible to the Town website.

VI. Subcommittee Reports**A. Treasurer**

Ms. Anderson recapped the budgetary line items for the new members, noting how thankful the Committee is for the budget that is allotted. The current remaining budget is \$3,996.44.

B. Maintenance

There were no further updates at this time, other than the blazing that was previously discussed.

C. Community Outreach**1. Fall Festival, Historical Society**

Ms. Harford shared that several trail maps were given out, and lots of people inquired about the trails, even people from out of town. Thank you to Ms. Harford and Ms. Amsel for working the Committee's table.

2. Trail of Treats

Ms. Anderson shared that roughly 800 candies were handed out by members of the Committee. Ms. Allen, Ms. van Zelm, Ms. Anderson and Ms. Amsel worked to set up the booth and hand out treats.

Ms. Wambolt-Gulick asked if this number was higher than previous years. Ms. Anderson answered that it was more than some previous years, but less than the second year of the event. The parking presented a challenge due to the volume of people arriving at once.

Ms. Anderson celebrated that many adults also wanted maps at this event. Over 100 map packets were handed out to families.

3. Annual Thanksgiving Walk – Saturday, November 30th, 10:00 am

This will be at Snipsic Lake Road, starting on the Ellington side, which is dirt. Everyone is welcome.

4. Mini Golf at the Library – February 8, 2025

Ms. Anderson is looking for volunteers; set-up will take place the Friday before. Ms. Anderson has much of the supplies required already. She shared her vision for the set-up, and the Committee agreed that it would be engaging and beneficial for bringing information about the trails to visitors. So far, Ms. Allen and Ms. Anderson will be attending.

5. Earth Day – April 26, 2025, Town Green

There was no update at this time.

6. 3 Foragers, Spring 2025 with Hall Memorial Library (May or June)

There was no update at this time.

7. Bird Walk at Batz – May 3, 2025, 7:30 am (rain date May 4th)

There was no update at this time.

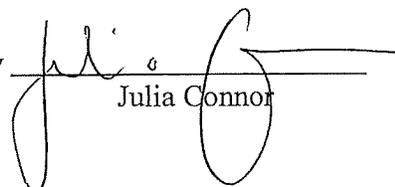
8. Geologist – Ray Schaeffer

Ms. Anderson shared that Connecticut is part of a garnet trail; there are deposits of garnet on Crystal Ridge. Mr. Schaeffer is also interested in exploring Batz, as there is a ledge there. He would like to conduct a walk for the Committee, possibly for Connecticut Trails Day. He is also interested in writing up information for the kiosks about what geology is located on the different trails.

VII. Adjournment

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (SCHULTZ) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:54 PM.

Prepared by Deanna Wambolt-Gulick; submitted by


Julia Connor



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

VALERIE AMSEL
JUDI MANFRE
DONNA ALLEN
LINDSAY NEUBECKER
BILL SCHULTZ
TOM PALSHAW
DAN CHAMBERLIN
ROBERT BARONE
ANN HARFORD
MICHAEL EMONS
STEVEN AUSTIN
STUART LANZ

CHAIRMAN
LINDA ANDERSON

VICE CHAIRMAN
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM

SECRETARY
DEANNA WAMBOLT-GULICK

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2024
Town Hall Annex

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Anderson, Cynthia van Zelm, Valerie Amsel, Donna Allen, Lindsay Neubecker (by phone), Tom Palshaw, Robert Barone, Ann Harford, Steven Austin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Judi Manfre, Bill Schultz, Dan Chamberlin, Michael Emons, Stuart Lanz

I. Call to Order

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

II. Citizens' Forum

There were no citizens present.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. November 13, 2024

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (ALLEN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2024 MEETING.

IV. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Crew

Ms. Harford said Ellington Public Works removed the tree but there was some debris left which she and Mr. Barone removed. They also raked leaves at Franklin to clear the trail.

The crew repaired the bridge near the radio station. Mr. Barone said they will eventually raise up or replace the bridge but it is sturdy now.

1. Signs – *No Motorized Vehicles and No Hunting* Installed

Ms. Anderson said the *No Motorized Vehicles and No Hunting* sign was installed at Windermere.

2. Street Sign will be removed

Ms. Anderson said Public Works will turn around the street sign so it is pointing toward Pinney.

3. New Development on Parking Lot near Hockanum River

Ms. Anderson said Public Works plans to put sidewalks on both sides of Windermere Road to provide access to the trailhead. The Town of Ellington is also interested in putting in an eight-car parking lot. Because the parking lot would affect the wetlands, the plan will go before the Inland Wetlands Agency for review. This is a planned spring project for the Town.

B. Handrails

Ms. Anderson said the handrails are on hold until the spring.

C. Conservation Commission Report

Ms. Amsel said the Conservation Commission did not meet.

D. Kiosks – QR Codes, Maps, No Motorized Vehicles and No Hunting Installations

Ms. Anderson said new maps are being printed and will be ready in January. She noted that QR codes are automatically updated so there is no need to update those on the map.

Ms. Anderson said the *No Motorized Vehicles* and *No Hunting* signs will be installed at the new kiosks.

E. Emergency Signs

Mr. Palshaw said there were no updates on the emergency signs.

F. Maps – All Updated/New Copies – Working on Ellington Highlands

See above under D. Ms. Anderson said the Ellington Highlands map still needs to be completed but the Committee will not be able to walk the site to finalize the map until there is no snow.

Mr. Austin asked if leaves were allowed to be removed from the trails. Ms. Anderson said the Committee typically removes leaves in the spring. Mr. Austin said he has some people who can help clear some leaves on a trail near to him and will do so with the ok from the Committee, which all agreed to.

1. Recreation Department

Ms. Anderson said Committee member Bill Schultz noted that the trails maps on the Town's website were difficult to find. Ms. Anderson worked with Parks and Recreation Department and the maps are now located on the Parks and Recreation website under the drop-down menu of "Facilities and Parks."

G. Easements for West Road/Franklin

Ms. Anderson said she will work with the Town's Planning Department on the easements this winter.

H. Eagle Scout Projects – No Updates or New Projects

There are currently no projects in the works.

I. Gates – No Update

Ms. Anderson said the two new gates at Crystal Ridge trail will be installed in the spring by Public Works.

V. New Business**A. Community Service Hours for High School Students**

Ms. Anderson said Ellington High School is working with Sam Saunders of Public Works and Samantha Baer of the Senior Center to come up with a list of projects for students to earn community service hours. A Town Committee may be formed to spearhead this work with the goal of students working on projects over a one-to-two-week period.

B. Facebook

Mr. Austin agreed to take over the Facebook posts. Thank you! Ms. Anderson will get him Lauren Desrocher's contact info as she has been kindly handling the Committee's Facebook posts.

C. Bluebird Houses

Ms. Neubecker thanked Ms. Anderson and the Committee for its support and work on the bluebird houses. Ms. Amsel will secure doors on the bluebird houses.

VI. Subcommittee Reports**A. Treasurer****1. 2025-26 Town Budget Submission**

Ms. Anderson said there is \$3,479.49 remaining in the budget.

She and Ms. van Zelm will meet with the Town Finance Department on a budget submission for the FY2025-2026 year.

B. Maintenance

Ms. Amsel said she has pavers left over for the work on Windermere, which she will put in the Trails storage unit.

Ms. Anderson said she pulled out the checker and chess pieces at Batz for the winter season. Ms. Amsel also pulled out the cloth section at the sensory garden at Batz and will replace it in the spring.

C. Community Outreach**1. Annual Thanksgiving Walk – Saturday, November 30th, 10:00 am**

Ms. Anderson said it was a great day for the walk with 15 people attending.

2. Mini Golf at Hall Memorial Library – February 8, 2025; Volunteers needed to set up and work day of event

Ms. Anderson and Ms. Allen are committed to volunteering. Ms. Anderson will check with Mr. Schultz to see if the Green Earth Club at the high school can help.

3. Earth Day – April 26, 2025, Town Green

There was no update at this time.

4. 3 Foragers, Spring 2025 with Hall Memorial Library (May or June)

There was no update at this time.

5. Bird Walk at Batz – May 3, 2025, 7:30 am (rain date May 4th)

There was no update at this time.

6. Geologist – Ray Schaeffer

Ms. Anderson is still waiting to hear from the geologist.

7. Chess Tournament for Spring/Summer or Fall – Work with Senior Group/High School and Middle School

Ms. Anderson will follow up with the school system.

8. Ideas for Events – Batz/Ellington Highlands (CT Trails Day)

Ms. Anderson suggested that Ellington Highlands be the walk for CT Trails Day.

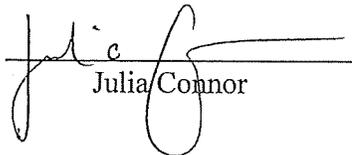
She asked for suggestions on how to get more people to use the amphitheater at Batz. Ms. Harford thought the CT Herb Association may be able to do an event there.

Ms. Neubecker said she can contact Ellington Public Schools on whether they would be interested in doing programs at the amphitheater.

VII. Adjournment

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (BARONE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:15 PM.

Prepared by Cynthia van Zelm; submitted by


Julia Connor



Oakridge Dairy Receives Workforce Development Award Earned through participation in responsible management program

The [National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management \(FARM\) Program](#) recently awarded a FARM Excellence Award for Workforce Development to [Oakridge Dairy](#) in Ellington.

The FARM Program focuses on five program areas: Animal Care, Antibiotic Stewardship, Biosecurity, Environmental Stewardship and Workforce Development, and each program area provides participants with resources such as science-based standards, verifications, metrics and other tools that can be leveraged to improve best management practices.

Oakridge has used the FARM Workforce Development resources and evaluation to support continuous improvement by adding to its detailed employee handbook and implementing safety trainings through companywide monthly meetings. The farm also conducted training sessions covering 13 different topics for daily operations on the farm. Regular training assures employee safety and contributes to the farm's overall success.

Oakridge knows its employees are the core of the dairy and work to make sure they are supported outside of work too, such as hosting an employee-organized soccer team. Its mission is to build a better future for families by producing safe and healthy food while delivering value to employees, owners and the community.

[Learn more about Oakridge](#)

FROM THE Farm

DECEMBER 2024 | VOLUME 39 ISSUE 4



Agriculture Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt; Dr. Indrajeet Chaubey, dean of the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources; CFBA Executive Director Joan Nichols; CFBA President Paul Larson.

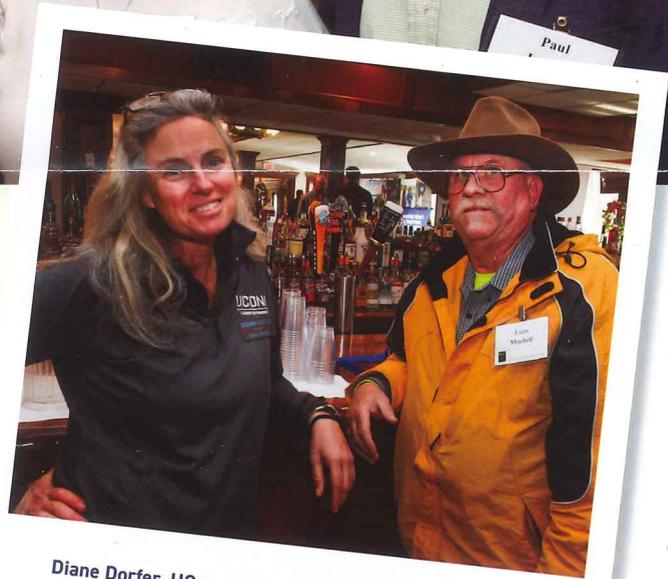
WRAPPING UP 2024 CFBA HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING, AG EXPO TO CLOSE OUT YEAR

Connecticut Farm Bureau had a busy November, hosting the 2024 Annual Meeting on the 14th and the Ag Expo on the 20th.

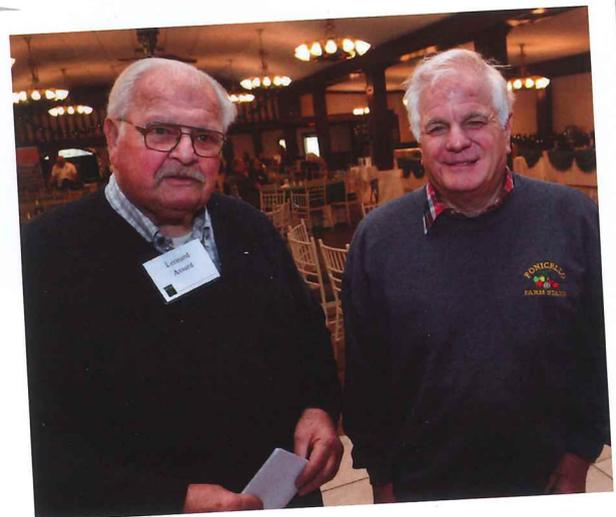
The Annual Meeting was an opportunity for farmer-leaders from around the state to discuss policy issues affecting producers, learn about CFBA's accomplishments during the 2024 legislative session, hear more about the federal farm bill from American Farm Bureau Federation's David Salmonsens, and more.

The Ag Expo the following week was a great success! Farm Bureau members, officials and ag supporters came to sample some locally produced food and beverages, enjoy a buffet lunch, network and meet with the exhibitors who displayed farm equipment and supplies, discussed available farm services and provided resources.

Here are some highlights from this year's Ag Expo, which had a theme of "Building Resilience Through Innovation."



Diane Dorfer, UConn Farm Viability Service coordinator; attendee Liam Mitchell.



Attendees Leonard Assard and Mark Foniceo.

Continued on page 4



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AGRICULTURAL IMPACT "CRITICAL AND SIGNIFICANT"

REPORT OUTLINES AG'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO STATE, URGES LAWMAKERS TO PAY ATTENTION

The agricultural industry had a "critical and significant impact" on the economy of Connecticut in output, jobs and quality of life in 2022: up to \$4 billion in economic output, as many as 31,000 jobs, and nearly a billion dollars in labor income, a recent economic impact study concluded.

Despite its relatively small size, Connecticut agriculture ranks third in New England in farm sales, which totaled \$751 million in 2022.

"In a small, densely populated state like Connecticut, it's easy for agriculture to be overlooked," said Chris Laughton, one of the report's authors and director of Knowledge Exchange at Farm Credit East, which partnered with UConn's College of Agriculture, Health & Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture to compile the report using the latest USDA Ag Census data. "This report makes the case that agriculture is important to the state in a number of ways, not the least of which is its contribution to economic activity in our communities."

The report also noted the changes in sector-specific sales from 2017 — the last time a similar study was done — to 2022. It showed a modest increase in the contribution of agriculture since 2017, which the researchers attributed to farmers' resilience to the pandemic and the transformation of ag in the state in favor of high-value crops and value-added agriculture.

Paul Larson, president of Connecticut Farm Bureau, stated that with some of the highest land values in the country, no farmers in the state are growing commodity crops like in the Midwest. Connecticut's farmers need to be resourceful and quick to react to challenges like weather events and the market, he said, adding, "Many producers rely on direct-to-consumer sales to realize greater income for their farm, and fortunately, we have a great consumer base that understands the vital role of

farms in their communities, and they support our farmers."

While tobacco and animal production sectors such as cattle ranching, animal slaughtering and aquaculture contracted, greenhouse, nursery, floriculture and sod, as well as fruit and vegetable production, ice cream and creamery/butter manufacturing grew significantly. The report pointed to climate change, the increasing high cost of production and regulation in Connecticut, and increasing imports that compete with local products as reasons for the decline in some sectors.

The researchers recommended further study and urged lawmakers to explore policy aimed at preserving and spurring growth in the industry, such as lowering the high costs of production in the state, and mitigating or removing regulations that may be stunting the growth of the industry or limiting investment returns. To try to address this, Larson said, "We will be working with our friends in the legislature to pass a Farm Investment Tax Credit bill in the upcoming session. This should help create an economic stimulus for farmers to be able to invest in their facilities to ensure the long-term viability of their farm."

A key takeaway of the report, said Laughton, is that natural resource-based businesses, such as farming, fishing and forestry, are not just stewards of the environment and the state's working landscapes and waterfronts, but are also modern, vibrant and progressive contributors to the economy and job markets.

"This is an important story to tell, particularly to policy makers at the state and federal level," said Laughton. "It says that agriculture really matters to the state's economy, and that policy makers should focus on ensuring a favorable environment for the growth and development of these important industries."

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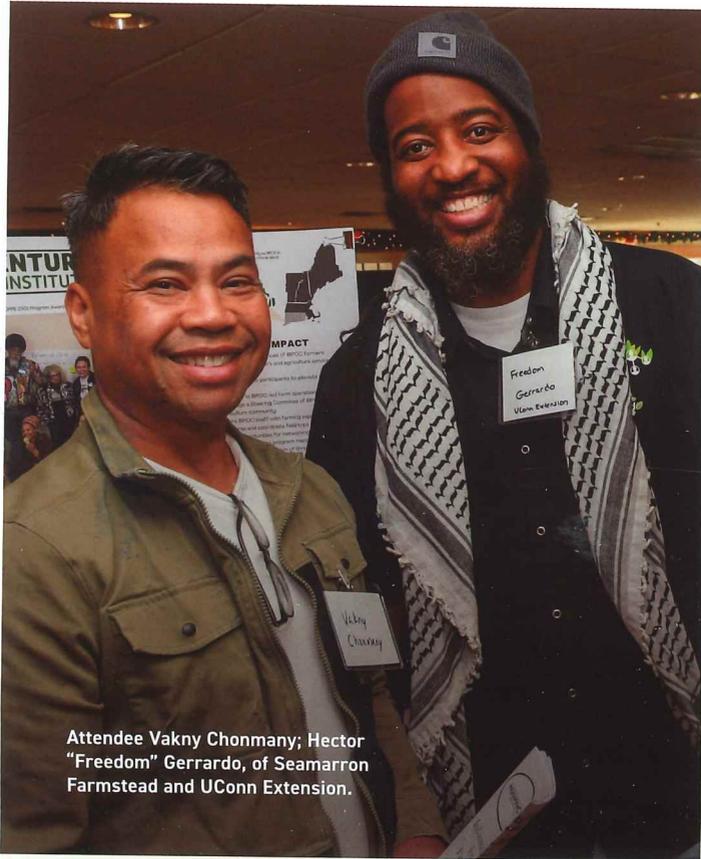
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THE MISSION OF THE CONNECTICUT FARM BUREAU

is to elevate the stature of agriculture in our state. Through education, market promotion and legislative advocacy, we strive to increase farm income and to improve the quality of life not only for Connecticut farmers, but also for their consumers.



Attendee Vakny Chonmany; Hector "Freedom" Gerrardo, of Seamarron Farmstead and UConn Extension.



From UConn Extension: Lauren Kurtz, invasive species outreach specialist; MacKenzie White, assistant extension educator - livestock; Stacey Stearns, communications specialist.



Agent Matt Wraight, Lyons & Wraight Insurance; CFBA President Paul Larson; Nationwide Senior Business Consultant Mike Spaulding; CFBA Executive Director Joan Nichols.

NATIONWIDE'S LEGACY PROGRAM HELPS AT HOLMBERG

The farm transition from one generation to the next was taking longer than the Holmberg family planned.

A lot longer.

Enter Henry Mondschein, a Nationwide Insurance representative and partner with Connect Financial Group who helped walk the Holmbergs through what had been taking years to accomplish.

"They had been going through this process since around 2014," recalls Mondschein of the Holmberg family's effort to transition Holmberg Orchards in Gales Ferry from Richard and Diane Holmberg to their son, Russell. "Working together, we got to the finish line."

Mondschein met several times with the family to implement Nationwide's Land as Your Legacy program, developed by Nationwide to help agribusiness owners protect their family farms. The program helps assist with legacy planning and provides a framework for the often complicated and emotional process of farm transitioning.

"We were able to work closely with Russell and his parents to help them all feel comfortable with the process and, at the end of the day, to conduct a transition in a way that worked out well for everyone," said Mondschein.

From their first meeting through the final document signings at the attorney's office, Mondschein was with the family every step of the way.

Russell Holmberg agrees that Nationwide's Land as Your Legacy program – and especially the assistance from Mondschein, a familiar face in the region's farming community – was invaluable.



The family at Holmberg Orchards in Gales Ferry.

"Henry has become a trusted advisor for our farm," said Holmberg. "He was able to carefully navigate our situation and find a path forward that met everyone's financial and emotional needs. Most importantly, he kept us on track with gentle, reassuring reminders of important benchmarks. We are grateful for his help."

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DID YOU KNOW?

Connecticut recently transitioned from eight counties to nine planning regions represented by councils of government (COGs).

In 2017, the state requested that the U.S. Census Bureau adopt the COGs as county-equivalents. This change was approved in 2022 and all Census Bureau operations and publications now use the new county-equivalent boundaries, names and codes for purposes of collecting, tabulating and disseminating statistical data.

Since Connecticut's eight counties ceased to function as governmental and administrative entities in 1960, the nine COGs exist to address matters of mutual interest to their constituent cities and towns and function as regional planning organizations.

We published a map in the last issue of From the Farm that reflected the change and it led to some confusion. The map showed eight of the nine COGs.

DEER FENCING INSTALLED

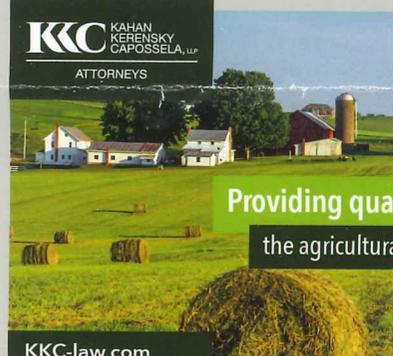


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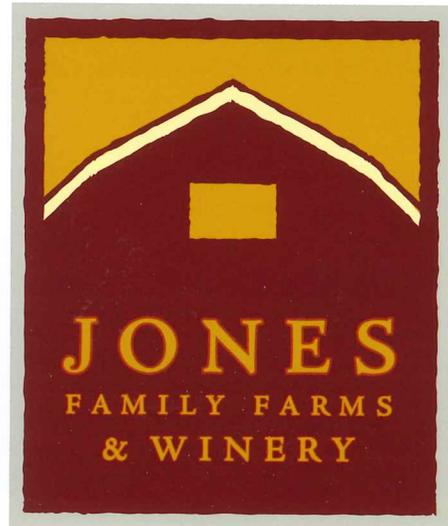


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BREAKING THE STIGMA OF HEARING LOSS IN FARMING

Often, because of extended exposure to loud machinery and noisy environments, farmers are at a significantly higher risk of hearing loss than the general population. One third of all U.S. farmers have some form of hearing loss, according to the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

HEARING LOSS IS COMMON AMONG FARMERS

Lauren Roling, a McCook Central FFA member in Salem, South Dakota, and her sister Alyssa conducted a survey of farmers seeking input on hearing loss. That survey found almost 75 percent of farmers don't use hearing protection, even when working around high noise levels. "All participants had overexposure to noisy farm machinery and environments. Sixty-four percent said they have hearing loss related to extended exposure to high noise levels," said Lauren.

Hearing loss is a fact of life on the Roling family farm, much like it is on thousands of farms around the country.

"We are the sixth generation on our family farm. We work beside our grandfather, father and brother. They all have some form of hearing loss," Lauren said. "We wanted to find a way to educate the next generation of farmers to prevent the trend of hearing loss in agriculture."

ADDRESSING THE STIGMA OF HEARING LOSS

Lauren and Alyssa's research confirmed there's a stigma surrounding hearing loss among farmers that may keep them from wearing hearing aids or seeking medical advice. This reluctance not only makes their hearing health issues worse, but also impacts their overall well-being and safety.

Tackling the stigma around hearing issues is key to helping farmers take charge of their hearing health. Be open about it — start conversations and share success stories of farmers who have sought help. This can help reduce the fear of judgment and inspire others to prioritize their health. Understanding how common hearing loss is among farmers is a big step toward breaking down that stigma.

HELPING BOOST LOST HEARING

On the farm, hearing loss can make it difficult to hear warning signals or alarms, putting farmers at risk of accidents. In severe cases, hearing loss can even contribute to social isolation, depression and cognitive decline.

The good news for farmers and anyone with hearing loss is there have been massive advancements in hearing aids and other tools to help restore the lost sense. Today, affordable over-the-counter aids and other tools like tinnitus maskers offer hearing assistance.

It's also important to add preventative measures whenever working around loud equipment or machinery on the farm. This includes wearing hearing protection and limiting the time of exposure to loud conditions.

Visit AgInsightCenter.com for resources and expert tips on trending topics to help you run a successful business and maintain the safety of your operation.

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2024 Updates & Highlights

"Our organization and land trusts across the state rely on CLCC for the leadership, advocacy, and funding necessary to accelerate the pace of conservation and protect the lands and waters essential for future generations."

– Catherine Rawson, Executive Director
Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy



Scaling New Heights: The Power of Teamwork in Land Conservation

Tree climbing wasn't on the agenda for CLCC's recent strategic planning retreat, but it was a challenge that I couldn't resist.

We arrived at a landmark red oak while taking a midday hike at the Winchester Land Trust's (WLT) Rosgen Woods. Guided by Jen Perga, WLT President, and Shelley Harms, a statewide land trust consultant, the CLCC team had the opportunity to see first-hand one of WLT's most recent acquisitions. We explored the trails, woods, and waterways, enjoyed the diverse birdlife, and admired the land trust's impressive trail building.

As we rounded a corner, the "Great Red Oak" came into view. When someone challenged me to climb it, I (impulsively) agreed, sparking an impromptu team-building exercise. With each step up the tree and each step back down, my CLCC colleagues assisted me, reminding me of the collaborative relationships essential to everything we do.

Reflecting on the drive home, I thought about the many facets of teamwork that make our land conservation work possible. Our board and staff bring energy, fresh perspectives, and camaraderie to our programs, making each day a joy. Our partnerships with land trusts, volunteers, and professionals—like Jen and Shelley—demonstrate boundless dedication, skill, and firm resolve, making the conservation of properties like Rosgen Woods possible and providing the public with invaluable experiences in nature.

Fostering relationships is essential in working with landowners who choose conservation, ensuring their land is stewarded in accordance with their wishes and protected as a necessity for future generations. Our partnership with advocates, legislators, and agency colleagues is crucial in prioritizing land conservation policy at every level, emphasizing its critical role in addressing climate change, protecting biodiversity, and strengthening our economy. Building trust with community partners is key to diversifying the network of people engaged in conservation efforts.

You play a critical role in all facets of this teamwork. Your belief in the power of nature and your commitment to ensuring it remains available for generations to come are the foundation of our success. Your partnership with CLCC helps us achieve our mission to elevate and strengthen land conservation throughout the state and contributes to our shared vision of a greener, more sustainable future.

Thank you for inspiring us every day and reminding us that teamwork extends far beyond our office and into the wider community we serve.

Warm regards

Amy Blaymore Paterson
Executive Director



With each step up the tree and each step back down, my CLCC colleagues assisted me, reminding me of the collaborative relationships essential to everything we do.

Progress Towards a Strategic Vision

In a world where environmental challenges are ever-evolving, CLCC remains steadfast in its mission to elevate and strengthen land conservation in Connecticut.

Land trusts across the state are essential in protecting the vital lands that clean our air and water, feed our communities, and offer us solace.

From our forests and wetlands to the mosaic of agricultural landscapes across our urban and rural space, protecting these lands is our responsibility to future generations. Your partnership has enabled us to make significant strides towards the goals outlined in our 2023-2027 Strategic Plan—and stories of this progress are shared in the following pages.

This year, we've again organized this report into five sections, each reflecting a strategic goal:

- 1 Dramatically increase the pace and amount of land protected in Connecticut**
- 2 Build a strong, sustainable land conservation community with capacity to permanently conserve and steward natural and working lands**
- 3 Enhance permanence of protected lands**
- 4 Integrate diversity, equity, inclusivity, and environmental justice into all aspects of land conservation**
- 5 Strengthen CLCC's organizational capacity and sustainability to lead the land conservation community in Connecticut**

Our commitment is unwavering, and the progress detailed in this report is a testament to the collective effort of our community, donors, and partners.

Thanks to your generous support, we are creating a future where ecosystems flourish, communities are resilient, and our natural environment is conserved for all to enjoy. Together, we are making a lasting impact.

Thank you for being a crucial part of this journey.

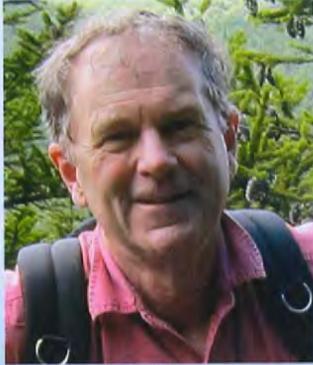


Celebrating Excellence in Conservation

Throughout this report we are delighted to feature CLCC's 2024 Excellence in Conservation Award honorees, recognized for their significant contributions to the ongoing success of land conservation in our state. Read more about them at ctconservation.org

GOAL 1

Dramatically increase the pace and amount of land protected in Connecticut



Deborah Jones

2024 Katchen Coley Award for Excellence in Conservation – Barton Jones

The Katchen Coley Award for Excellence in Conservation honors Katchen Coley (1924-2013), a dedicated CLCC Steering Committee member and environmental activist. This award recognizes an individual who embodies Katchen's spirit of land conservation through long-term volunteer service, inspiring others to passionately advocate for community causes.

"Conservation is key to the survival of our planet and its support for life. I am proud to be part of an outstanding team acting locally to meet a global challenge."

- Barton Jones, President, Cornwall Conservation Trust



Empowering Land Trusts to Conserve the Places We Love

Conserving land requires resources, and land trusts often need help to secure the funding necessary to bring to fruition their conservation goals. Due diligence costs for appraisals, title searches, and surveys can hinder conservation efforts before they begin.

CLCC understands these funding needs and remains steadfast in our commitment to empowering land trusts.

Through our Transaction Assistance Grant (TAG) Program, we have awarded more than \$283,000 to 35 land trusts, helping to conserve ~2,745 acres across Connecticut.

Recent Awardees



New Hartford Land Trust
\$15,000
Survey



Clinton Land Conservation Trust
\$10,000
Title Search +
Environmental
Assessment +
Survey



North Haven Land Trust
\$4,250
Survey +
Recording Fees



Wolcott Land Conservation Trust
\$4,000
Appraisal

Further, through our Connecticut Conservation Partnership Program (CCPP), we are directing \$6.7 million in federal funding toward land conservation efforts, bridging fundraising gaps, and accelerating the pace of conservation across the state.

In partnership with five land trusts, we will conserve ~990 acres, safeguarding wetlands, forests, and critical wildlife habitat while also promoting recreation and outdoor education.

Awarded Transaction Expenses



"CLCC's support was critical in enabling our small land trust to successfully apply for state open space funding.

New Hartford Land Trust is now moving toward preserving a significant parcel within an under-protected core forest block that helps protect a key drinking water resource."

- Madeline McClave
President, New Hartford Land Trust

GOAL 1

Advocacy and Conservation Policy

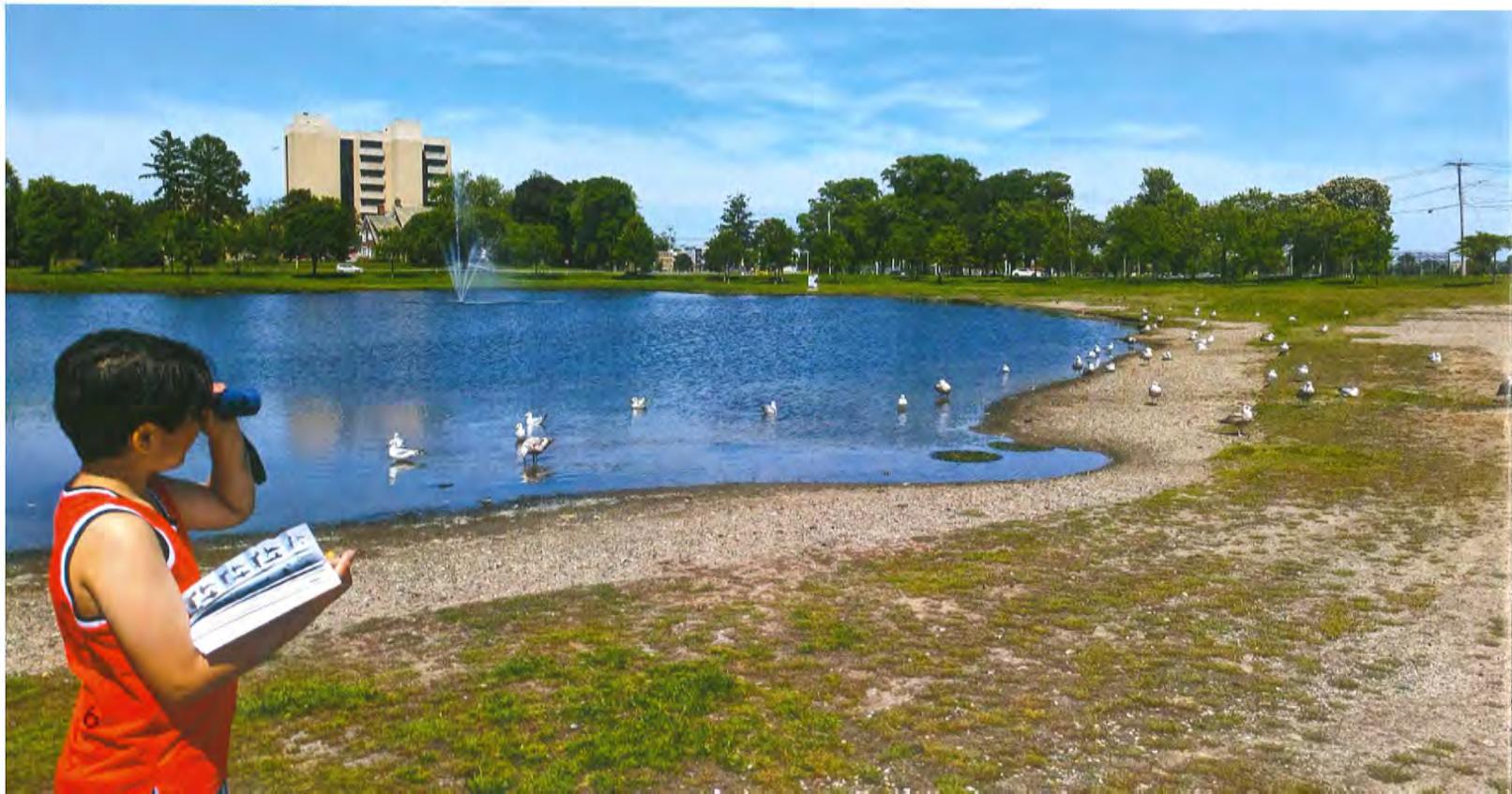
Leadership in Conservation Policy

CLCC ensures land conservation is a priority and that state funding is accessible to a wider range of applicants, allowing for greater conservation impact across the state.

Through **leadership on the State Natural Heritage, Open Space, and Watershed Land Acquisition Advisory Board**, chaired by CLCC's Executive Director, Amy Blaymore Paterson, we successfully advocated for legislative amendments that expand eligibility for environmental justice communities, provide broader access to the funding for non-profit organizations, and increase financial support for land conservation projects.

Yaw Owusu Darko, CLCC's Senior Project Specialist, chairs the **Land Subcommittee of the Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC)**, where he works closely with DEEP to advance environmental justice initiatives. Under his leadership, CLCC has collaborated with DEEP to propose key administrative changes to the OSHA and UGCG application processes, reducing barriers for urban communities and expanding opportunities for open space protection in underserved areas.

Leading through these critical initiatives, we are not only conserving land but also fostering a legacy of equitable access to the natural environment for generations to come.



Reflecting on the 2024 Legislative Session: Moving Forward to Protect Nature

The 2024 legislative session brought a mix of challenges and quiet victories, reminding us that the road to progress is often long and difficult. But through it all, the dedication of land trusts and community members across Connecticut was unwavering.

A big disappointment was the legislature's failure to pass key climate legislation. These bills, which included CLCC's priority to make nature-based solutions a part of the state's plan to fight climate change, were left to die in the Senate.

This was a frustrating outcome, especially considering the strong public support for action to address the worsening climate crisis and the loss of biodiversity. The inaction sent a discouraging message, particularly to the younger generation, who are looking for bold steps to protect their future.

Despite these setbacks, we should not overlook the progress we made. We successfully advocated for millions in grant funding for land conservation, trails, and resilience programs, and helped to defeat a proposal to convey state park land. We also stopped proposals that would have weakened protections for inland wetlands and reduced the public's ability to participate in local environmental decisions.

Plans to officially adopt nature-based solutions as state policy are gaining support among legislators and within DEEP. This progress sets the stage for future legislative and administrative action that could bring real change.

Persistence is key. While we didn't achieve everything we hoped for this year, the groundwork has been laid for future success. Together, we will continue to push forward, knowing that every small victory brings us closer to our goals.

What Are Nature-Based Solutions?

Nature-based solutions, such as forests and trees, wetlands, riparian buffers, and healthy organic soils, are essential in combating climate change and biodiversity loss.

As a conservation leader at the Capitol, CLCC strongly advocates for prioritizing nature-based solutions in state policy, emphasizing their myriad benefits to public health, the economy, and the environment while ensuring everyone has access to the vital benefits of nature.



Rick Newton

GOAL 1

CLCC Advocacy in Action

From local land trust celebrations to lobbying in Hartford and at our nation's Capitol, CLCC's leadership, together with your dedication, ensures that land conservation funding is elevated and prioritized at every level. Protecting land—from our forests and wetlands to the mosaic of agricultural landscapes across our urban and rural spaces—is our responsibility for future generations.



Amy Blaymore Paterson advocating for the Community Investment Act.

This Dedicated State Fund Works For Your Community

The Community Investment Act (CIA) provides dedicated funding for state land conservation, farmland preservation/dairy production, historic property, and affordable housing programs.

In 2024, CLCC led an effort to update the CIA website to capture its growing impact. The results are remarkable, with over \$259MM invested in 1900+ projects across the state. Check out the updates and find a project in your community at www.communityinvestmentact.org.

Celebrating State Open Space (OSWA) and Community Garden (UGCG) Grants

CLCC was honored to join Governor Lamont and Commissioner Dykes in announcing \$14.5 million in state grants to aid in the purchase and protection of more than 2,626 acres of open space through 17 projects in 18 municipalities across Connecticut.

These grants mark the largest round of open space protection awards—by acreage protected and by dollars awarded—in more than a decade.



Yaw Owusu Darko speaking at the OSWA awards.



LaSalette Community Gardens



“When I returned from Washington D.C., I found myself interested in land trusts — specifically Connecticut’s land trusts — in a deeper way. [T]he D.C. trip helped me to see new possibilities and see Avalonia in a new way.”

– Sharon Lynch
Avalonia Land Conservancy

Thanking Connecticut’s Congressional Delegation: 2024 Advocacy Days

CLCC staff, alongside representatives from Avalonia Land Conservancy, Warren Land Trust, and the Land Trust Alliance, returned to Washington, D.C., to thank Connecticut’s Congressional Delegation for vital federal conservation programs and funding, including the 2024 Farm Bill.



Bush Hill Manchester Land Trust Conservation Conversation

Gathering for Conservation Conversations

This year, we gathered at Manchester Land Conservation Trust’s Bush Hill Farm and the Cornwall Conservation Trust’s Furnace Brook Preserve to celebrate volunteers and recognize partnerships that leveraged state, federal, and other local investments in land conservation.

We were honored to have legislators, including Majority Leader Jason Rojas and Representatives Jason Douchette and Maria Horn, join us and the land trusts in these wonderful conservation conversations.

Thank you for standing with us and empowering CLCC and Connecticut land trusts to champion these critical issues.

GOAL 2

Build a strong, sustainable land conservation community with capacity to permanently conserve and steward natural and working lands

2024 Excellence in Conservation Organization Award – Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy

The Excellence in Conservation Organization Award recognizes organizations that have completed outstanding projects in the past year, showcasing creativity and meaningful progress in the field.

This year's award recognizes a successful 3-way merger that formed the Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy.

"The formation of Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy will help the region better protect farmland, waterways, and wildlife habitat and promote outdoor recreation and education for the benefit of current and future generations."

– Amanda Thompson, President, Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy



Why Go It Alone? Collaboration and Partnerships Are On the Rise...

In the ever-evolving conservation landscape, CLCC is at the forefront—guiding and supporting land trusts. As conservation becomes more complex, strategic, and costly, many land trusts recognize the need for greater capacity to carry out their missions.

With hands-on technical assistance from CLCC, land trusts are pursuing mergers and collaborations as vital strategies for building this capacity.

As we celebrate the Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy's successful merger, CLCC is working with five additional cohorts of land trusts on their journey towards consolidation. CLCC also fosters innovative partnerships through regional gatherings, resource sharing, networking, and more.

The days of “going it alone” are fading as land trusts increasingly turn to collaboration. Through CLCC’s programming these partnerships are strengthening individual organizations and advancing the broader mission of land conservation in Connecticut.

Working together, Connecticut land trusts are creating more resilient and sustainable communities.



GOAL 2

"We're grateful to CLCC and LTA for the incredible fundraising webinar and coaching with David Allen.

Working with David was a pleasure, and he helped take complex fundraising concepts and translate them into actionable steps, tailored to our land trust.

We are most grateful for this opportunity, which has expanded capacity for the work we all do together."

– Scott Peterson
President, Middlesex Land Trust

Building Capacity at All Scales

From statewide initiatives to one-on-one support, CLCC is dedicated to empowering Connecticut's land trusts through comprehensive capacity-building programs. A wide range of initiatives ensure land trusts have the tools and knowledge to overcome challenges and seize opportunities.

Statewide:

- The 40th Annual **Connecticut Land Conservation Conference** was the largest yet – bringing together close to 600 attendees for a full day of learning, connecting, and celebrating.
- A **four-part fundraising webinar** shared strategies and tools, followed by direct consulting assistance to equip land trusts to raise more money for conservation.
- **Peer networking programs** for land trust Presidents, Treasurers, Executive Directors, and Land Stewards created space for information sharing and connection building.
- Online info sessions shared intricacies and helpful tips about **State grant programs for conservation**, preparing land trusts to tap into these critical funding sources.

Regional:

- Farmington River area land trusts gathered for a **succession planning workshop**, learning new tools to identify and onboard future leaders.
- In Lower Fairfield County, CLCC **convened land trusts** to discuss collaborative, innovative, and equitable approaches to high development pressures and limited open space.
- Climate smart land stewardship was the focus of a **field tour** in the Litchfield Hills, as land trusts saw firsthand how active land stewardship can create greater resilience in their woodlands.
- Land trust cohorts in the greater Waterbury area, Lower Connecticut River, and beyond joined CLCC at **regional roundtables** to find ways of sharing resources and working more collaboratively.

One-on-One:

- **Visioning sessions** facilitated by CLCC staff supported individual land trusts as they embarked on strategic planning, worked through growing pains, and considered new opportunities.
- CLCC's Climate Smart Land Stewardship Coordinator made **15 site visits**, helping land trusts conceptualize how climate adaptation and resilience could be integrated into their land stewardship programs.

A Record-Breaking Gathering: The 40th Annual Connecticut Land Conservation Conference

The energy was palpable as new ideas and connections were sparked at CLCC's annual conference on March 23, 2024. This year's event had the largest turnout ever, with nearly 600 attendees braving a torrential downpour to learn, network, and inspire. Participants delved into topics from fundraising and community engagement to climate resilience and effective lobbying.

Keynote speaker Dr. Bronson Griscom, a renowned scientist and thought leader on natural climate solutions, illustrated the power of natural systems to combat climate change and emphasized the critical role that land conservation and stewardship play in our collective future.

These concepts were further emphasized by an esteemed panel of Connecticut practitioners, scientists, and community leaders — each sharing their perspective on the different approaches and strategies to implementing these concepts.

The conference underscored our shared commitment to accelerating land conservation, strengthening land trusts, and engaging people from all walks of life.

"I have already told a lot of people about how amazing the conference was, but sufficient words and superlatives elude me. What amazing energy, ideas, and people.

I especially enjoyed and valued the workshops on Indigenous perspectives and the youth panel. There just might be hope for the future after all."

– David Sutherland
Equity Trainer & Facilitator



600 Attendees • 111 Faculty • 75 Land Trusts • 36 Exhibitors • 55 Gal. of Coffee • 3" of Rain

GOAL 3

Enhance Permanence of Protected Lands



2024 Peter B. Cooper Award for Excellence in Conservation Law — Peter B. Cooper

The inaugural Peter B. Cooper Award for Excellence in Conservation Law honors outstanding achievements in legal efforts that protect and promote conservation initiatives vital to preserving our natural resources.

“What pleases me most about this excellent award is that it looks both back and forward. In my view, inherent as part of this award is that it induces future recipients to step forward to take up the vital environmental betterment outcomes still needing to be accomplished for all people.”

– Peter Cooper, Esquire

Empowering Land Trusts Through Climate-Smart Solutions

At CLCC, we believe in the power of local action to address the impacts of climate change. In 2024, we were privileged to channel more than \$150,000 in critical funding to nine land stewardship projects across the state. These funds will connect land stewards with the resources and professionals they need to implement meaningful, nature-based climate solutions.

Resilience in the Woods

With a \$45,000 grant from CLCC, the East Haddam Land Trust is building forest resilience at their Miller Farm Preserve. Volunteers and foresters will work together to create clearings that enhance structural diversity, provide essential wildlife habitat, and fortify the forest against pests, disease, and extreme weather. It's an excellent example of how climate-smart stewardship can ensure the long-term health of our forests.

Farms for the Future

Similarly, the Great Meadow Conservation Trust received nearly \$15,000 from CLCC to bolster ongoing efforts at their Wood Parcel in Wethersfield. This project will help adapt a working agricultural field to new climatic conditions by treating invasive species, planting native cover crops to reduce erosion, and introducing climate-adapted tree species and native plants. The impact of this work extends beyond the land itself by including community involvement and education.

Funding for this grant program was paid for by the Climate Smart Farming: Agriculture and Forestry Grant. Funding is awarded and administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge into Land Stewardship

CLCC is proud to award funding to Avalonia Land Conservancy for the Pike Marshall Forest Management Plan.

This initiative, guided by expert foresters and Tribal Resource Specialists, blends Indigenous knowledge with strategies for climate resilience and adaptation.

Avalonia's growing partnership with the Mashantucket Pequot sets a vital precedent for future collaborations between Connecticut's land conservation and Indigenous communities.

GOAL 4

Integrate diversity, equity, inclusivity, and environmental justice into all aspects of land conservation



2024 Excellence in Community Engagement Award – Aspetuck Land Trust with special recognition of Reggy St. Fortcolin

The Excellence in Community Engagement Award recognizes land trust connections to local communities, the region, and wider society, celebrating how partnerships and collaborative relationships address community needs and connect more people to the land, and each other.

“Reflecting on my tenure, I am particularly proud of the strides we have made in protecting Bridgeport and the surrounding area’s unique ecosystems, as well as fostering a community I am extremely proud to be a part of. This work is part of a larger narrative that began before my time and will continue long after.”

– Reggy St. Fortcolin, Conservation Outreach Manager, Aspetuck Land Trust



Reggy St. Fortcolin

Access for All: Bridging Communities and Nature

Conservation is most powerful when it is woven into the fabric of our communities. CLCC envision a future where everyone—regardless of background—has the opportunity to connect with the natural world, experience its beauty, and become a steward of the land.

By centering our efforts on the needs and voices of communities, we're nurturing relationships and creating pathways for more people to experience the transformative power of the outdoors.

Convening Conversation: Sharing Knowledge, Strengthening Conservation

One of the most meaningful ways CLCC builds these connections is by bringing people together. In Lower Fairfield County, we convened a workshop that united land trusts experiencing the unique pressures of working in high-development areas. It was a space where stories were shared, challenges were understood, and solutions were born.

Generating Resources: Championing Equity in Farmland Access

CLCC's commitment to equity extends to the farmlands that nourish our communities. In partnership with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, we developed the *Farmland Access & Ownership* report, which sheds light on the barriers underserved farmers face in securing land.

This report is a catalyst for change—offering data-driven insights and actionable recommendations for policymakers, land trusts, and farmers to create more inclusive opportunities in agriculture.

Increasing Access: Fostering Belonging in Nature

Through our Bird & Hike program, CLCC partners with local land trusts to offer guided outdoor experiences to underserved communities. Each hike is a step toward a more inclusive conservation movement, where everyone has the chance to find solace, inspiration, and purpose in nature.

This commitment to community-centered conservation expands our reach and empowers new champions of conservation—laying the foundation for a more just, equitable, and sustainable future for all.



Reggy St. Fortcolin



Ashley Stewart



GOAL 4

“With growing access to limited resources and available land for the myriad of land uses required for sustaining Connecticut communities, organizations such as the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) are working to help land trust members and local planners examine the potential for creative thinking and understanding about the intersect of land resources and land use in Connecticut.”

– Connecticut Planning

A publication of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association Winter Edition

Reflections from Summit on Land Use in Connecticut

Early in 2024, CLCC hosted our 3rd Annual Winter Summit, “Land Use in Connecticut: Connecting Grasstops to Grassroots.” This summit provided a platform for land trusts to explore strategic land use planning and policies through collaborative discussions with state, regional, and local leaders.

The ‘Grasstops’ panel, featuring esteemed state agency leaders, shared insights on coordinating programs for land conservation, affordable housing, farmland access, and other land uses. The ‘Grassroots’ panel included regional and local government entities, non-profits, and community organizations, examining land use through their evolving perspectives.



Grasstops Panel

(From left) Bryan Hurlburt, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture; Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director, CLCC; Seila Mosquera-Bruno, Commissioner, Department of Housing; Moderator John Guszowski, Co-Founder & Principal, Tyche Planning & Policy Group; Binu Chandy, Director, Office of Brownfield Remediation & Development for the Department of Economic and Community Development; Rebecca Augur, Responsible Growth Coordinator, Office of Policy and Management; Aaron Lefland, Deputy Director, CLCC; and Jovan Bryan, Community Conservation Coordinator, CLCC.



Audience members actively engaged in an open forum, discussing capacity building, policy updates, and enhancing the connection between state and local land use initiatives. At CLCC, we know that the challenge of building community is learning to hear every voice in the room and unite them toward common ground and understanding.

We are committed to encouraging more of these discussions and leveraging our unique position as a statewide organization to foster these essential conversations and unite diverse voices to promote community and land stewardship across Connecticut.



Grassroots panel at the 2024 Winter Summit

(From left) Moderator Ashley Stewart, Principle, Stewart Environmental and Equity Consulting; Mirna Martinez, Executive Director, Southeastern Connecticut Community Land Trust; Connie Manes, Director, Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative; Tyra Penn-Gesek, Director, Planning & Development for the Town of Thompson; Francis Pickering, Executive Director, Western Connecticut Council of Governments; Kaleb Garrett, Founder, The Circle; and Jonathon Savage, Executive Director, Gather New Haven.



John Landon



Paul Ramsey

GOAL 5

Strengthen CLCC's organizational capacity and sustainability to lead the land conservation community in Connecticut



Mark Lifflander

2024 Conservation Hero Award – Hiram Williams

The Conservation Hero Award honors individuals or organizations for exceptional leadership in preserving Connecticut's natural treasures, celebrating their impactful contributions to protecting the state's landscapes and ecosystems while inspiring future generations to embrace environmental stewardship.

"I grew up on a farm and spending time outdoors was a daily event for me, almost as much a part of my life as going to school. I always took it for granted that other people lived that way, that they took comfort in the woods and wildlife.

Later in life, I realized that many people did not have the same opportunities to be out on the land. Serving on the NCLC Board allows me to ensure that everyone enjoys the benefits of nature."

- Hiram Williams, Board Member, Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

A Groundbreaking Census of Connecticut Land Trusts

This year, CLCC proudly released the results of the first-ever census of Connecticut land trusts. This groundbreaking project provides important insights and helps to set new benchmarks for conservation efforts statewide. It also achieved several key objectives:

Quantifying Conservation

For the first time, we have quantified the pace and scale of land conservation across Connecticut, providing a clear picture of our collective impact.

Understanding Priorities

We gained valuable insights into land trusts' priorities, how conservation efforts benefit communities, and how priorities change with time.

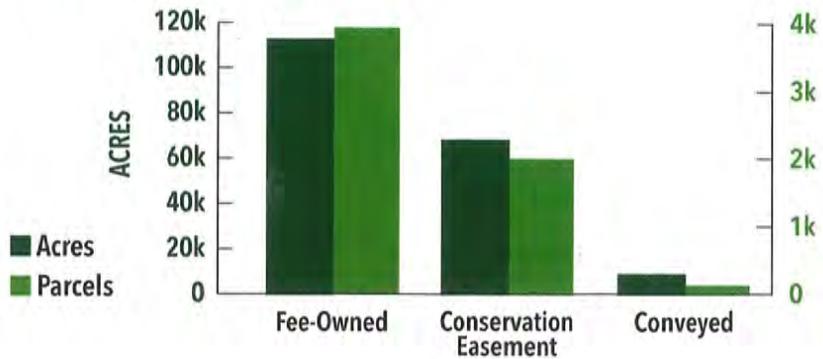
Support and Collaboration

The data revealed new ways for CLCC to support land trusts through informed policy, grant programs, workshops, technical assistance, and more.

With continued collaboration, including a partnership with Yale School of the Environment, we aim to explore this comprehensive and insightful data further, helping to pave the way for a resilient and thriving natural landscape in Connecticut.

For more information about the census, including a copy of the recently released report, please visit ctconservation.org/publications

Conservation Success



Support Needed for Land Acquisition (Maximum score = 10)



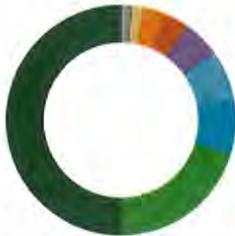
Meeting Land Trust Needs

In response to a clear need for new funding sources, CLCC will launch a new Land Capital Grants program in 2025 and is actively exploring other opportunities to finance land conservation and stewardship.

GOAL 5

Financials and Giving

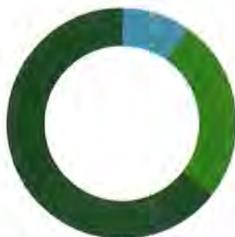
2023 FINANCIALS



2023 Operating Income

Municipal Commission	\$ 2,098
Land Trust Memberships	\$ 13,768
Corporations/Organizations	\$ 14,046
Investment Income	\$ 29,591
Program Revenue	\$ 34,834
Government	\$ 51,968
Foundations	\$ 68,513
Conference	\$ 75,206
Individual Donations/Gifts	\$192,596
Foundation Grants*	\$486,214
Total	\$968,834

*Includes multi-year grants that will be spent down in 2024



2023 Operating Expenses

Fundraising	\$ 82,087
Management & Support	\$212,612
Programs (Incl. Conference)	\$533,210
Total	\$827,909

For a full financial statement visit www.ctconservation.org

This past year, CLCC has seen significant developments in many areas of our work as we've undertaken initiatives to bolster our resources, expertise, and collaborations. This has been done to better equip ourselves to support land trusts with the technical and financial resources they need to navigate the dynamic challenges of land conservation.

Through the invaluable support of land trusts, municipalities, foundations, state and federal partners, and YOUR steadfast dedication, we stand fervid to support Connecticut's land trusts at a pivotal time for our environment.

Every Gift Matters

All gifts to CLCC help us increase our impact. Together, we can conserve more land and ensure an increasingly diverse array of people are connected to the wonders of our natural world, fostering a sense of stewardship that goes beyond each land trust preserve. Your gift holds immense value and is deeply appreciated.

What Will Your Conservation Legacy Be?

Planned gifts are one of the best, most effective ways to have a lasting conservation impact. There is no minimum age or gift amount required to create a conservation legacy, just a desire to create a greener, healthier Connecticut for future generations.

By remembering CLCC in your estate plans you join others who share a similar passion for natural solutions to urgent climate challenges.

CLCC is committed to partnering with you to help Connecticut's land trusts conserve more land and ensure it remains protected forever. Your thoughtful estate planning enables you to provide for your loved ones and for the special places and organizations that you value the most right now.

For more information about how to make an immediate, recurring or planned gift, act now by visiting ctconservation.org.



Gwen Marrion



Sue Cope

New Leadership at CLCC

In 2024, CLCC announced Gwen Marrion as CLCC's new Board Chair and Sue Cope as Vice-Chair, succeeding Elisabeth Moore, who led the Board for two years.

Their dedication will guide our efforts forward. Join us in welcoming them and thanking Elisabeth for her tremendous leadership as we continue to elevate land conservation in Connecticut.



CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

deKoven House
27 Washington Street #12
Middletown, CT 06457

ctconservation.org
860-852-5512

Officers & Board of Directors

Gwen Marrion
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Bolton

Sue Cope
Vice-Chair
Simsbury

Eric Hammerling
Secretary
West Hartford

Richard Newton
Treasurer
Mystic

Mandi Careathers
Bloomfield

Akiebia Hicks
West Hartford

Doris Johnson
Windsor

Bill Kraekel
Easton

Eric Lindquist
Griswold

Elisabeth Moore
New Haven

Rebecca Neary
Warren

Catherine Rawson
New Preston

Jonelle Reynolds
Coventry

Staff

Amy Blaymore Paterson
Executive Director

Ricky Bentley
Climate Smart Stewardship Coordinator

Jovan Bryan
Community Conservation Coordinator

Yaw Owusu Darko
Senior Project Specialist

Cristina Gastador Hayden
Operations Manager

Victoria Jaskaran
*Sandy Breslin Conservation Fellow
(2023-24)*

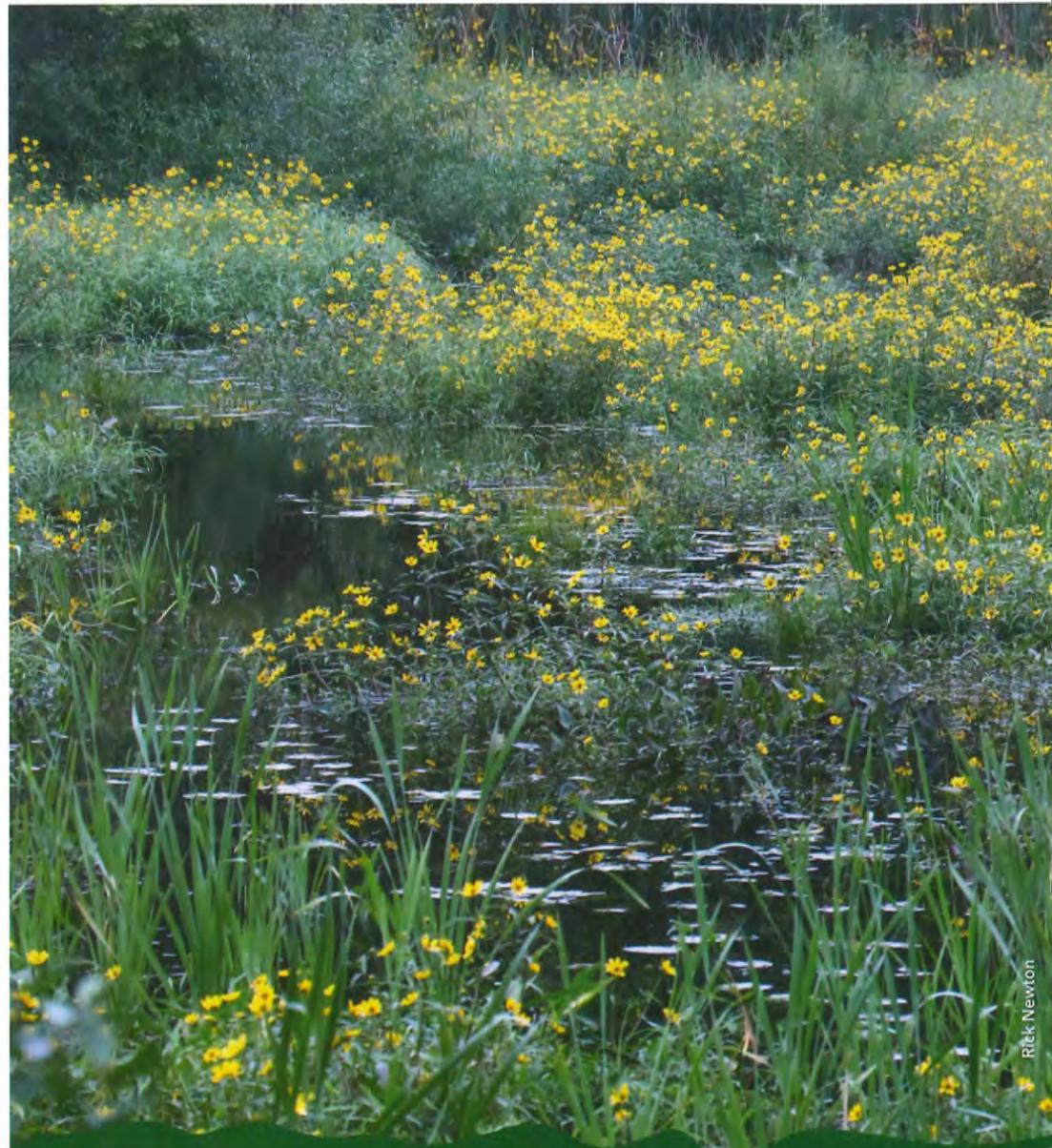
Aaron Lefland
Deputy Director

Kathleen Lowe
Communications Manager

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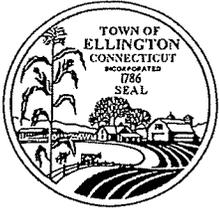
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Lisa Houlihan
Ellington Conservation Commission
PO Box 187
Ellington, CT 06029-0187



Rick Newton

SAVE THE DATE Connecticut Land Conservation Conference
March 22, 2025 Wesleyan University



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024, 7:00 PM

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT
REMOTE ATTENDANCE: VIA ZOOM MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Regular Members James Gage, Robert Zielfelder, Sean Dwyer, George Nickerson, Alternate Ann Harford; Via Zoom: Alternate Jon Kaczmarek

ABSENT: Vice Chairman David Bidwell, Regular Member Laurie Burstein

STAFF: John Colonese, Assistant Town Planner and Ashley DuBois, Recording Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Rebecca Quarno called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (On Non-Agenda Items): None

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Plan of Conservation & Development, Chapter 4-Conservation Strategies, Natural Resource Preservation: Historic Preservation.

John Colonese, Assistant Town Planner, reported attending the November 6th Historic Preservation Council meeting and the commission received the grant for the historic resources inventory. The grant money totals \$20,000 for the inventory project and next steps include acquiring an assistance agreement for signature from the First Selectman. Additionally, a Request for Proposal will need to be approved by the Historic Preservation Office. John shared one recommendation from the council is for the Request for Proposal to include a full scope of all the homes in the town that can be inventoried.

Chairman Quarno responded by asking if the commission will need to get more than one proposal and John believes there will be more than one. Commissioner Dwyer asked John if this will be published, and John confirmed it will be published. Chairman Quarno then asked if there was an indication of how quickly work could start and John referred to a breakdown of the timeframes for the project in the application. John shared the Historic Preservation Council seemed pleased to have an application from the Town of Ellington.

2. Report - Farmland Preservation Program.
 - a. Press Release from the Town Planner's Office – Oakridge Dairy.

John Colonese shared that the press release was shared with the Hartford Courant, Journal Inquirer, North Central News, Patch, and the Town Newsletter. John noted that although the press release was sent last month, none of the news outlets have published it.

John reviewed a summary of an article, published October 22, 2024, by Jaime Foster, that the State Bond Commission and Governor Lamont approved over \$9 million for the Department of Agriculture for the preservation of Connecticut's agricultural land, including farmland preservation programs. John noted the Department of Agriculture also recently celebrated a milestone of 50,000 acres of preserved land statewide since the program started in 1979.

Commissioner Nickerson offered a round of applause for Commissioner Gage's dedication to the town's farmland preservation program. Commissioner Gage asked that Lisa Houlihan's, Town Planner, efforts be recognized. Chairman Quarno noted that Oakridge Dairy is the largest dairy farm in Connecticut. Round table discussion ensued.

3. Report - Open Space Preservation Program.
 - a. Executive Session to Discuss Possible Open Space Purchases.

John Colonese did not have any updates on open space properties on Green Road as they are waiting to hear back from a property owner.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY 24-25 Budget & Expenditure Update.

John Colonese restated that \$390 under Dues & Subscriptions was from last fiscal year and confirmed there is still \$840 remaining, which is historically used for the Connecticut Land Conservation Council, the Connecticut Farmland Trust, and the Connecticut Farm Bureau.

2. Approval of the 2025 Conservation Commission Meeting Schedule.

MOVED (DWYER) SECONDED (QUARNO) TO APPROVE THE 2025 CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE AS WRITTEN.

3. Approval of October 8, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (GAGE) TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2024, AS WRITTEN.

4. Correspondence/Discussion:
 - a. Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee – Monthly Agendas/Minutes.

Commissioner Harford reported the next Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee meeting is tomorrow night due to the election the previous week. However, Commissioner Harford reported the boy scouts have put up multiple checkers' benches at the Batz location, as well as picnic tables for the community. Furthermore, Commissioner

Harford shared that pavers were donated to the committee, and they used them around a bridge located near Sullivan Tire on the Hockanum River. Additionally, pavers were placed in a wet area near a culvert off Windermere for better walking support in the springtime. Next, Commissioner Harford shared that they cleared more area on West Road, north of Sullivan Tire, of Japanese knotweed, roughly another five feet and progress continues. Lastly, Commissioner Harford shared that the parking area on Stein Road is finished and the paths at the location are almost ready to be blazed and still need the emergency stickers added. Round table discussion ensued.

- b. Memo to Agency Chairpersons & Department Heads, dated October 9, 2024, regarding the 2025-2026 Capital Improvements Budget Requests.
- c. CT Dept. of Transportation Notification of DEEP Permit Application Route 140, Crystal Lake Road, Geometry Improvements.

John Colonese noted the plan includes altering Pinnacle Road to create a T intersection into CT-140. John stated the committee was notified due to wetlands and environmental impacts along Kimball's Brook and another unnamed waterway.

Commissioner Dwyer inquired if changes can be made to the intersection of Hopkins Rd and RT-140, either by state or local authorities, to construct a pedestrian crossing for the Blue Trail across and along the side of the state road. Commissioner Nickerson shared a similar situation on CT-74 where a crossing was installed connecting trails. John responded he could contact the CT DOT with the request and notify the CT Forests & Parks Association as they are the stewards of the Shenipsit trail.

- d. Connecticut Farmland Trust Gratitude Report / Fall 2024.
- e. Northern Connecticut Land Trust, Inc. Annual Report 2023-2024.
- f. Connecticut Farm Bureau, From the Farm, October 2024 / Volume 39, Issue 3.
- g. John Colonese reported Governor Lamont declared a Stage 2 drought for all of Connecticut. This stage includes shutting down automatic outdoor irrigation, minimizing overall water usage by fixing leaky plumbing and fixtures, and following any conservation requests issued by local water suppliers and municipalities. Currently, the Planning Department has not received any requests from local water suppliers.
- h. John Colonese proposed a hybrid or remote meeting schedule for the committee moving forward into winter months. Chairman Quarno responded the hybrid model can remain in place, allowing individuals to attend remotely if needed or in person if able.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (NICKERSON) SECONDED (DWYER) TO ADJOURN THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley DuBois, Recording Clerk