

Hamilton-Wenham Open Land Trust

Newsletter Winter 2004

New Conservation Restriction

In the last week of 2003, the Land Trust received a generous grant of a conservation easement on 24 acres in Wenham on the property of Paula and Binkley Shorts. This acreage is the largest land donation the Trust has received in its 19 year history. The property is unique in that it has approximately eleven-hundred (1,100) feet of frontage on Cherry and Pleasant Streets with an unusually attractive vista of rolling open fields. The property also contains a wide variety of plant and wildlife habitats, including open fields, woods, and wetlands.



The land's prominent location and its outstanding scenic and habitat qualities make it one of the most significant protected open spaces in the area. Its preservation will greatly benefit the townspeople of Wenham.

Reservations

Hamilton

Chute/Tarr Farm
Johnson
Pondview
Richardson
Riverside
Taft Woods
Tamarack Farm
(*Conservation Restriction*)
Whipple

Wenham

Nickerson Knoll
Shorts
(*Conservation Restriction*)

Ipswich

Marshview

President's Letter

In the last week of December, the Land Trust received final approval for its first Conservation Restrictions, that protect two scenic and important properties from development - one for 24 acres in Wenham (see page 1) and another for nine acres in Hamilton (see right). This brings the total acreage under the Trust's protection close to 90. By year end, we expect to reach over 100 acres of protected open space - a milestone for the Land Trust.

In addition to acquiring new properties and maintaining our existing lands, the Land Trust's officers, directors and members continue to support local conservation initiatives, such as National Trails Day (Hamilton Conservation Commission), the development of an Open Space Committee under the Hamilton Master Plan (Hamilton Planning Board and Conservation Commission), and the continued protection of Chebacco Woods (Chebacco Woods Land Management Committee).

Thanks to the generous support of our members and friends, the Land Trust will reach its 20th anniversary in 2005. We face the coming year with many challenges and opportunities. Working together, we can preserve more of the forests, wildlife habitat, watershed, agricultural lands and other natural features that make Hamilton and Wenham the special places they are. To help us continue our land acquisition program and maintain the properties and trails we now own, we welcome new members and urge existing members to renew their memberships now. We are always interested in acquiring and conserving additional land and would be pleased to talk with any landowners regarding permanent protection of their land. Please contact a Land Trust officer or director or call our office at 978-468-7747 to discuss possible land acquisitions or conservation easements.

Best to all in 2005,
Christopher P. Davis, President

Tamarack Farm CR Approved

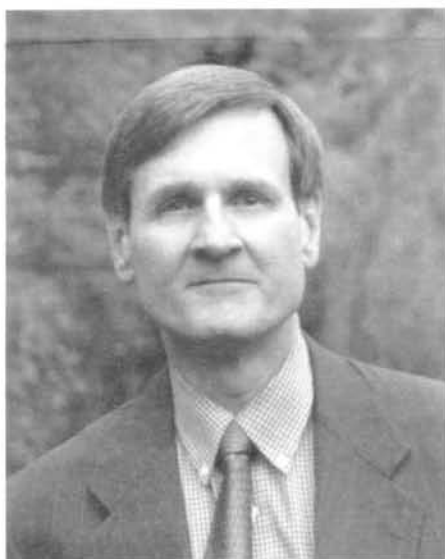
A conservation restriction on nine acres of Tamarack Farm in Hamilton was approved by the Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs at the end of December last year.



The Land Trust is grateful to Michele Stecyk and Kevin Donovan for their donation.

New Director

The Officers and Directors have elected Ken Whittaker of Wenham as a new Director. Ken is an attorney with the Boston law firm of McRoberts, Roberts and Rainer LLP, a firm which specializes in environmental law including compliance assistance, permitting, contaminated property remediation and redevelopment, environmental insurance placement and recovery and toxic tort litigation.



An environmental engineering and waste remediation consultant throughout the Northeastern U.S. for approximately 20 years, Ken began his second career as a lawyer six years ago. He graduated from the Syracuse University College of Law, magna cum laude, in 1998, and has a Doctorate in environmental engineering from Purdue University. Ken and his wife Margaret, head librarian and educational technology coordinator for the Pingree School, live in Wenham and occasionally see their three daughters when they are home from college and work. Meg is at Colgate and Anne is at Emory University. Their oldest daughter Chris recently graduated from the University of Massachusetts and lives in Southern New Hampshire while working as an insurance adjuster for Electric Insurance Co. in Beverly.

Membership

The Land Trust is a charitable organization that conserves land for its natural, recreational, scenic, and wildlife values. Contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations

A regular membership is only ten dollars; and larger amounts or negotiable securities are always welcome.

Land Gifts

The Land Trust can purchase land for permanent protection, or may use one of several other methods to protect open space. We can accept donations of land or the funds to purchase land, accept a bequest, or accept the donation of a conservation restriction, which permanently limits the development that can take place on the land.

New Look

We hope you like our new format and find it readable.

The Land Trust is also developing a new website, which will hopefully be up and running in 2005.

Hamilton-Wenham Open Land Trust, Inc.

Officers

Christopher P. Davis, Esq., *President*

Robert Shaw, *Vice President*

Betsy Hopkins, *Clerk/Treasurer*

Dana L. Hansen, *Special Projects*

Directors

Carol Decker

A. Winslow Dodge

Timothy Everitt

Frederick S. Moseley, IV

Martin Pomeroy, Esq.

Lisa Press

Binkley C. Shorts

Arthur D. Weekes, III

Ken Whittaker

Upcoming - 2005 Reservation Walks

Please join us for a brief walk of some of our special properties.

Sunday, April 25 and
Sunday, September 26

Meet at Hamilton Town Hall
at 1:00 p.m.

For further information, call
Betsy Hopkins at
978-468-7747

Hamilton-Wenham Open Land Trust, Inc.

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