



GRANDVIEW FARM PRESERVE

The Stonington Land Trust was given nearly 30 acres to form the Grandview Farm Preserve in Pawcatuck! The property was transferred to the Land Trust at a ceremony on the Preserve on Friday October 8th at 11 AM. Attending the ceremony was Stonington's First Selectman Ed Haberek, representing the developers was Jim Chambers, Randall Conradi and Ladwig and representing the SLT was President James Smith, Laurie Smith, Dora Hill, Stanton Simm and Alice Groton. James Smith said "We are thrilled by this addition to open space in Stonington and are very grateful to the developers. We know many people in our town will enjoy this open space for years to come."

In years gone by many local people will remember cutting their own Christmas trees at Jeffrey's Tree Farm off Route 2. The old tree farm has been turned into Grandview Farm subdivision. The developers used the Stonington Conservation Subdivision regulations developed by the Conservation Commission and Planning and Zoning with the objective of providing additional open space in the town. The 29.8 acres deeded to the Stonington Land Trust is approximately half of the 59 acre development. The requirement for open space set-aside is only 15%. The development manager, Mr. Randall Conradi, has used the Conservation subdivision in the past and plans on doing so on other properties in the future.

This property is particularly valuable as it abuts the 27 acres of open space set-aside from the High Ridge development forming a 57 acre corridor of open space in this densely developed area. The Stonington Land Trust plans to make trails on the Grandview Farm Preserve to be open to the public. The property has beautiful woods, meadows and a small stream.



Dear Friends,

The last several years have been very good for land conservation in Stonington. A very important parcel was preserved when the Allaire family purchased Little Pond Farm from the Cannans. An easement covering 96 acres was granted to the Connecticut Farmland Trust and the land will continue to be farmed by the owners. The easement abuts the 148 acre easement held by the Stonington Land Trust on the Fusina property. The combination of these two properties means that almost 250 acres in the crucial Anguilla Brook Corridor will be preserved.

Thirty acres have been donated to the SLT by Pequot Development Corporation at Grandview Farm. This is very significant because the total acreage of the property being developed was just 59. The developer, Pequot Development Associates, led by Jim Chambers dedicated 50% of the total acreage to open space, when town regulations only require 15% to be set aside. The preserved acreage abuts 27 acres of open space in the High Ridge development thus totaling 57 contiguous preserved acres!

In partnership with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Stonington Conservation Commission and the Avalonia Land Conservancy, the SLT has contributed to the acquisition of the 16 acre Crowley waterfront property on Wequetequock Cove. This acquisition, when completed in the near future, will extend a continuous protected habitat, including Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, all the way from the Davis Farm on the Pawcatuck River to Wequetequock Cove.

The SLT was pleased to participate in opposition to the development of 200,000 square feet of retail space on the Perkins Farm. This 70 acre farm beautifully reflects the rural character of Stonington, and we are grateful that the Planning & Zoning Commission turned the development down.

We had a great crowd at our annual meeting which was held at the Road Church in June. After refreshments, our principal speaker was Martha Fraenkel of the CT DEP who gave a fascinating report on the Crowley Farm. Earlier in the year, we had a nature walk on the Fusina property which was kindly led by Maggie Jones director of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center. We are very grateful to the Dog Watch Café and the S & P Oyster Company, each of whom sponsored a benefit day for the SLT. We also wish to thank the Stonington Garden Club for the donation of 22 trees which were planted on the Fusina property in early October.

We welcomed two new board members during the year – Ben Baldwin of Pawcatuck and Jennifer O'Brien of Farmholme Road. They each bring important knowledge and background to our hardworking board. We also wish to recognize two departing board members, Jack Guyol and Jennifer Herbst, both of whom served us with distinction since our founding.

Finally, we want to thank our members for their generous and loyal support. Each one of you is important to us. If you have not already sent in your membership renewal, we ask that you take a moment now to complete the enclosed envelope and send in your contribution.

Sincerely,
Jim Chambers



Many members showed their support by attending the annual meeting in June at the Road Church



MEMBERS OF THE STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB AND STONINGTON LAND TRUST PLANT TREES

The Garden Club of America (GCA) will celebrate its centennial in June 2013. All member clubs throughout the country, including the Stonington Garden Club, have been encouraged to initiate a tree project in their local communities. The focus is trees, an appropriate living expression of the longevity, vitality and continuity of both the GCA and the Stonington Garden Club.

The Stonington Garden Club purchased 22 healthy, native trees in August from the Pequot Plant Farm. The Pequot Plant Farm was instrumental in helping the Garden Club choose appropriate trees and obtain them for the Garden Club from local tree nurseries. Club members have been caring for these trees until October, a good month for planting.

In partnership with the Stonington Land Trust, the trees were planted on October 10, 2010 on a property on Pequot Trail held by the Land Trust under easement granted by the Fusina family.



STONINGTON LAND TRUST

OFFICERS

James S. Smith, President

Paul Holland Jr., VP, Secretary

Dora Hill, VP, Treasurer

Laura B. Smith, Vice President

DIRECTORS

Benjamin H. Baldwin

Stuart G. Cole

Alice L. Groton

Harry F. Martin

Jennifer O'Brien

Anne Page

A. Wright Palmer

Stanton Simm

Joshua G. Welch



Maggie Jones from the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center accompanied us on a nature walk through the Fusina Property on a drizzly spring afternoon in April

PRESERVING STONINGTON!

Why Donate Land or Conservation Easements to the Stonington Land Trust?

You can help protect beautiful Stonington from development and create a lasting legacy by participating in the Stonington Land Trust (SLT).

Through land donation, placing conservation restrictions on your property, or making a financial gift to SLT, you can help ensure that more open space will be protected in perpetuity. Land donations, conservation restrictions, and financial gifts offer significant income and estate tax benefits.

Recent changes in Federal tax laws have increased both the maximum annual deduction for conservation restrictions as well as the number of years over which that deduction may be taken. SLT will work with property owners to help achieve their personal, income tax, and estate planning objectives.

Each year, the amount of open space and wildlife habitat dwindles. Please consider a donation of land or a financial gift to SLT for land acquisition, reclamation, and protection. It is a way that you can make a difference here in Stonington.

