

Inventory of Farms, Agricultural Parcels and New Farmers (Farmland Matching)

The Ag Committee continued farmland identification in Town, identifying some 300 parcels of land that are either currently farmed, or once were farmed and have the potential to be put back in production. Not all of this land will be used for agriculture, but there is considerable room for expanded farming. The Committee also reviewed the NRC's licensing terms for agricultural parcels and made suggestions for enhancing the language relating to agricultural use of town-owned land. The Ag Committee is working with the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (see: www.nesfp.org), a Tufts University Friedman School program that trains beginning farmers. New Entry operates a farmland matching service program that connects new farmers with farmland in the region. The Ag Committee and New Entry co-sponsored a mailing to landowners who own prime farmland soils and parcels of 2 acres or more of open land that could be used for farming. A landowner information meeting was held on October 10 at the Town House to educate potential landowners about making their properties available to new farmers. A panel discussion of farmers seeking land was represented.

Concord Community Food Assessment

Several members of the Concord Ag Committee served on the steering committee of the Conway School's Community Food Assessment for Concord. A report highlighting the importance of local agriculture, profiles of local farms in Town, and policy recommendations to further enhance the vitality of local food production and consumption in Concord can be found in the report: <http://concordfood.ning.com/>

In the Coming Year Farmland Clearinghouse

The Committee will continue to be involved in matching new farmers to underutilized agricultural parcels, Town, State, Federal, non-profit and private farmland to continue to utilize our resource base in the community for food production.

Other Issues

The Committee has discussed and will consider further: advocacy for continued agricultural use of McGrath Farm property and homestead; exploring policy rec-

ommendations proposed by the Concord Food Assessment report; farm-to-school local food sourcing; supporting new farmers; addressing livestock licensing requirements; agricultural worker housing and affordable housing in general for new farmers in town; and partnerships with the Farm at Concord MCI.

Concord still has an ample base of good, productive farmland. Active agriculture will succeed in Concord if the regulatory climate is supportive, if there are people who want to work hard to cultivate the land, and if there are secure markets for local farm products. Concord produces high quality vegetables, fruit, flowers, eggs, and meat, and there are ample opportunities to expand production and sell what we grow with continued community support.

CONCORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

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The Concord Land Conservation Trust (P.O. Box 141, Concord, MA) is a tax exempt, charitable organization established in 1959, with membership open to all who are interested in conservation of our natural resources. It complements other conservation efforts of the Town, state and national governments and offers an alternative and a balance to development in our Town.

The Land Trust works closely with its affiliate, the Concord Open Land Foundation. COLF generally acquires property that may be preserved only in part or used as a means for preserving other property. For example, at the end of 2011, COLF acquired through a bargain/sale and generous gift by Paul and Susan Ware 8.6 acres of property between the Ripley School and the Ridge behind Lexington Rd. COLF sold the portion of the

CONCORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

Statements of Financial Position September 30, 2012 and 2011

Assets	2012	2011
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,977,323	\$1,819,276
Pledge receivable-restricted to future land purchases	-	25,000
Pledge receivable-unrestricted	-	-
Due from affiliate	39,889	-
Property, net	21,507	24,320
Land - held as open space	<u>20,404,655</u>	<u>20,404,655</u>
Total assets	<u>\$22,443,374</u>	<u>\$22,273,251</u>
Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -
Net assets		
Unrestricted	1,638,331	1,479,807
Temporarily restricted	400,388	388,789
Permanently restricted	<u>20,404,655</u>	<u>20,404,655</u>
Total net assets	<u>22,443,374</u>	<u>22,273,251</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$22,443,374</u>	<u>\$22,273,251</u>

Statements of Activities For the Years Ended September 30, 2012 and 2011

	2012	2011
Contributions and other revenues		
Direct public support	\$115,323	\$139,719
Other contributions, bequests and receipts	171,719	354,906
Rental income	22,061	22,061
Investment return	205	497
Other income	-	5,039
Contributions for land campaigns		
Assabet Woods	-	<u>2,050</u>
Total revenues and other support	<u>309,308</u>	<u>524,272</u>
Expenses		
Program services		
Land Protection	14,689	240,000
Property maintenance	43,694	47,255
Insurance	5,163	5,708
Annual Meeting and Events	980	962
Real estate taxes	6,185	6,184
Education studies	7,810	6,000
Depreciation	2,813	2,813
Donations and Organizational Dues	1,625	875
Support services		
Salary	27,005	25,579
Accounting	7,355	8,103
Printing and postage	4,702	9,702
Office rent and utilities	8,350	8,050
Payroll taxes and fees	3,614	3,562
Office supplies and services	1,817	8,515
Telephone	1,872	846
Legal fees	1,275	2,620
Bank and credit card fees	<u>236</u>	<u>53</u>
Total expenses	<u>139,185</u>	<u>376,817</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	170,123	147,455
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>22,273,251</u>	<u>22,125,796</u>
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$22,443,374</u>	<u>\$22,273,251</u>

A complete copy of our audited financial statements is available upon request.

property constituting a house lot at 201 Independence Rd., on which a new house is now being built, and transferred the remainder of the acreage to the Land Trust for permanent conservation.

For some years, the Land Trust has become more active in taking the initiative in land preservation. The combination of development pressure resulting from Concord's desirability as a place to live and the limited space available for development means we have a small window for preserving the existing balance of land uses in the Town. As a result, the Land Trust now makes an effort to preserve from development, by purchase if necessary, virtually every large property that comes on the market, parcels that abut or link other open areas and properties in areas of the Town where open space is scarce.

The Land Trust is grateful to Chandler and Barbara Gifford for their gift this year of five acres of land between Monument Street and the Estabrook Woods. The preservation of this land completes a series of generous gifts by the Giffords and their son Peter that conserve a total of fifteen acres. This land provides a wildlife corridor running from the Woods toward the Concord River. It is accessible to the public from Two Rod Rd., which runs along the eastern boundary of the Estabrook Woods.

The Land Trust was saddened this year by the death of Nat Marden, our long-time property manager. Nat lived in the Bay House, which sits in the midst of the Wright Woods, our largest holding. He loved the Woods and Fairhaven Bay, over which they looked. Nat was a faithful steward for all of the Land Trust's properties. We will not attempt to replace Nat immediately but will instead attempt to have trustees and other volunteers perform property management, thereby freeing operating funds to retain experts such as foresters and naturalists to provide advice as to how to manage our properties to foster both wildlife habitat and public use.

Despite increasing landholdings and consequent burdens of stewardship, the Land Trust remains an organization that relies in principal part on the volunteered services of our trustees, COLF's directors and our members. This is particularly so after Nat's loss. CLCT's only paid employee is Nancy Cowan, who on weekday mornings staffs the Land Trust's small office

on Sudbury Rd. near the railroad crossing.

The Land Trust held its annual meeting on November 4 at the Ripley School. The meeting followed a walk around Gowing's Swamp and along connecting portions of the National Park's Battle Road Trail.

From time to time throughout the year, the Land Trust organizes walks on several of our properties to encourage their use by our membership. During 2012, the Land Trust and Harvard University collaborated in sponsoring a public lecture program and related seminar series for students at Concord-Carlisle Regional High School, the Middlesex School and Concord Academy. The program was organized, and the Harvard lecturers selected, by Andy Biewener, a Concord resident who is a Professor of Biology at Harvard and the director of the University's Concord Field Station, which administers the Harvard property that forms the core of the Estabrook Woods.

The Land Trust is grateful to the many residents of Concord who have been so generous in donating both land or conservation restrictions on land and the funds necessary to acquire and maintain conservation land. We are privileged to live in a town that places such a high value on maintaining a balance of land uses characteristic of the traditions of a New England town. The Land Trust acquires and holds property not as museum pieces but for use by the public. Our properties are available for hiking, skiing, picnicking and, in most cases, horseback riding. We hope that all of you will join us in using and enjoying the properties you have helped us to preserve.

CONCORD HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mary Johnson, Chair
Nancy Crowley
Rochard Eifler
Linda Escobedo
John Finigan
Judith Lincicum, Director

The Concord Housing Authority owns and manages 141 units of public housing in the Town and administers 85 Section 8 Housing Choice vouchers. These units and Vouchers provide affordable rents and subsidy to families, elders and disabled of low and moderate incomes.