



News from the New Hartford Land Trust

Volume 2, Issue 1

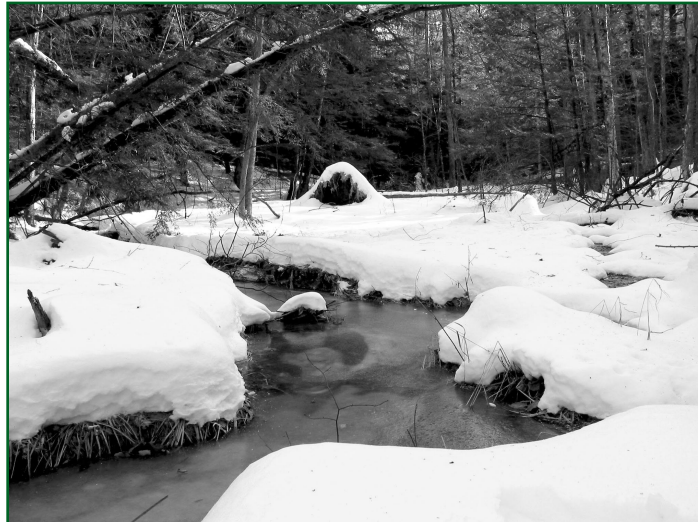
Join Us at NHLT's Annual Meeting on January 23, 2005 Roraback to Speak on New Preservation Proposal

The New Hartford Land Trust cordially invites all members, friends, and the general public to our annual meeting on Sunday, January 23, 2005 from 3 to 5 pm at the Town Hall Senior Center. (Snow date is January 30.) Our featured speaker, Senator Andrew Roraback of Goshen, will discuss his plan to protect thousands of acres of farmland and open space from development. Come and find out more about what the General Assembly and we in New Hartford can do to preserve the natural beauty and farmland that define Connecticut's rural New England character.

Senator Roraback is proposing legislation that will include \$100 million per year for ten years to conserve land around the state. Because Connecticut is losing farmland at a

faster rate (about 8,000 acres per year) than any other state in the country, critical action is needed now. The proposed legislation would allow towns and the state to preserve key parcels of land that are significant for their natural resources, wildlife corridors, scenic beauty, and/or agricultural potential.

Please join us on the afternoon of January 23rd to learn more about what's happening with this initiative and other efforts to preserve our most cherished landscapes. Kick off the New Year by hearing about land use policy and legislation that directly affects our quality of life in New Hartford. Refreshments will be served.



Stream in Regents Park (see p. 3).

What's Inside:

41-Acre Donation – p. 2

Riverwalk Trail – p. 2

NHLT Role – p. 3

'04 Clean-Up – p. 3

Regents Park – p. 3

Get Involved – p. 4

2005 Events – p. 4



NHLT purchased development rights to Terry and Marie Moreschi's beautiful Town Hill property in 2003, shown here in this photo.



Eager Land Trust volunteers (see Earth Day Cleanup, p. 3).

Gift preserves 41 acres of open space

Board President Donates Development Rights

Land Trust Board President Ron Eigenbrod has taken steps to ensure that a 41-acre wooded parcel with some wetlands that he owns between West Hill Road and Johnnycake Lane will never be subdivided or built upon. By donating the development rights through a conservation easement to be held by the New Hartford Land Trust, Eigenbrod will continue to own the land but gives up the

possibility of future development in return for a federal tax break that allows property owners to deduct a portion of that development value on their income taxes.

In 1991, the town approved 18 potential building lots on this parcel. The developers who owned it did not move ahead with the subdivision and Eigenbrod later bought it after foreclosure. The Land Trust board

voted to accept the donation at their December meeting subject to a site walk and attorney review.

"I urge other landowners to consider similar donations", said Eigenbrod. "There are substantial tax benefits either through a gift to the Land Trust or through the sale of development rights to the town. For many landowners who want to preserve their prop-

erty and either retain ownership or not, this might be a viable alternative to selling to developers."

For more information about conservation easements, please visit the Land Trust web site at www.newhartfordland-trust.org or contact the Open Space Preservation Commission through Town Hall or at newhartfordopenspace@charter.net

Land Trust Creates Riverwalk

New Hartford residents can now take a lovely, short stroll along a trail by the Farmington River in town center thanks to the cooperative efforts of Land Trust board members and volunteers, an aspiring Eagle Scout, and town leaders and staff. Generous donations to the Land Trust by the Beekley and Heath families as well as a \$6,300 grant from the Farmington River Coordinating Committee made the new 'Riverwalk' possible.

In 1993, Fenno Heath and the late Mason Beekley approached the Land Trust about holding the one and one-half acres where the Riverwalk is located until the Town of New Hartford might want to create a park on the site. The Land Trust accepted and began annual clean-up efforts on this former Heath family parcel where two old houses had been demolished.

Land Trust board member Tom Klebart accepted the assignment to steward

this land donation and, two years ago, talked with town officials about the potential for a town park on the property. The Land Trust then formed a Riverwalk Committee that included town representatives to move the project ahead. The group decided that the Land Trust would keep the property and create a trail to tie in with the town's planned riverside walk.

Klebart's son, George, in order to earn his Eagle Scout badge, enlisted Boy Scout Troop 19 to help make the land accessible to community members. Land Trust board members also pitched in to clean up the site. After removing lots of garbage, downed trees, and excessive undergrowth, some selective tree cutting was done and the Town works department dug up the base for the new trail. Riverside Nursery donated flowering shrubs to plant at the site and Hoffman Hardware gave materials. Using a rented Bobcat and equipment lent by Land

Trust leaders, Troop 19 completed the first portion of the walk in June and the Land Trust finished laying down processed gravel on the rest of the trail in September. Riverside Nursery donated flowering shrubs to plant at the site and Hoffman Hardware gave materials. The trail is now ready for visitors.

There are two entrances to the property just off Main Street in downtown New Hartford: across from the New Hartford Post Office or behind Town Hall on the left (northwest) side of the parking lot. You may visit anytime during daylight hours. The Land Trust is now seeking donations to place named benches along the trail. To find out more, call Ron Eigenbrod at 738-4136.

The wonderful generosity, vision and community spirit of the Heath and Beekley families made the new Riverwalk possible. Many thanks to the many



The Eric Mintel Quartet played before a packed audience of all ages at the New Hartford Land Trust's Riverwalk park on Sunday August 8, 2004, to commemorate the official opening of the park. The group will return to Riverwalk Park again on August 7, 2005.

individuals, town representatives, organizations, and businesses that contributed time, talent, funding and materials to help transform the site into an asset for all New Hartford residents. Last summer, the Land Trust sponsored a free jazz concert at the site and will bring back the Eric Mintel Quartet for a repeat performance on Sunday, August 7, 2005. Mark your calendars!

Partnerships for Preservation: The Roles of Public and Private Groups

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between the New Hartford Land Trust and the Town's Open Space Preservation Commission?

At times, there is confusion over the distinction between the two. This confusion is to be expected, as the mission of both groups is virtually identical: to permanently preserve land in its natural state. Indeed, the two groups will try to work cooperatively to conserve as much of New

Hartford's natural beauty and resources as possible.

There are important differences, however, between the two groups. The Land Trust is a private, not-for-profit organization founded in 1975 and managed by its members. It stewards about 20 parcels, totaling more than 300 acres of permanently preserved land in New Hartford.

The Open Space Preservation Commission, on the other hand, is an advisory

branch of local government, and its members are appointed by the Selectmen. In June, 2004, New Hartford residents voted to authorize the town to spend up to \$1.5 million on open space preservation. The Open Space Preservation Commission may recommend parcels of land to preserve, each of which must be approved by the Selectmen, Board of Finance, Planning and Zoning, and the majority of voters at a Town Meeting before funds are

expended.

Whenever possible, the Land Trust will forge partnerships with other conservation groups to preserve land. Possible partners include the Open Space Preservation Commission, the Trust for Public Land, the Highlands Coalition, the Farmington River Watershed Association, the Metropolitan District Commission, the State of Connecticut and the federal government.

Earth Day Cleanup

On Saturday, April 17, 2004, the New Hartford Land Trust organized the Earth Day Spring Cleanup in downtown New Hartford and at Brodie Park. The weather was beautiful and spirits were high as about 100 townspeople of all ages turned out to spruce up the Land Trust's Riverwalk Park and several other areas in need of attention.

We would like to thank the following local businesses for their tremendous generosity: Hoffman Hardware

donated work gloves and a variety of tools, Passiflora and New Hartford Dunkin' Donuts donated refreshments, Chatterley's surprised us with a delicious tray of sandwiches for the volunteers, and New Hartford Wine and Beverage saved us with a much-needed supply of bottled water!

We could not have pulled off this event without our amazing co-sponsors, who helped publicize it and mobilize the clean-



up brigade: The New Hartford Women's Club, Cub Scout Pack 19, New Hartford Girl Scouts, New Hartford Conservation Commission, New Hartford Volunteer Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary, and the Town of New Hartford.

Most of all, thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who donated their time, energy and enthusiasm!

New Hartford Land Trust President Ronald Eigenbrod (above) chipped brush along the Farmington River. George Klebart, Scott Hinman, and Justin Bray (left) willingly joined the fun. (Photos courtesy of Melissa Jordan-Reilly, Winsted Journal)



Regents Park Trails for Summer '05

The Land Trust is now developing a trail system within its 50-acre NHLT Regents Park parcel off Lair Road. Lair is the second left going south on South Road from Route 202 in Nepaug. Volunteers have been clearing and blazing the 10'-wide access path and plan to cut trails throughout the hilly, wooded terrain. The Land Trust has permanently protected this property from development and is making it accessible for recreation. The site includes soapstone deposits and a beautiful brook. Once it is completed, we welcome townspeople to enjoy the trails for hiking and cross-country skiing. To help with the trails, call Andy Hughes at 482-0242 or visit the NHLT web site.



New Hartford Land Trust

P.O. Box 272
New Hartford CT 06057

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NEW HARTFORD, CT 06057
PERMIT #18

2005 Land Trust Events – Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, January 23 -

Annual Meeting (see page 1 for
details)

Saturday, April 23 - Earth Day
Cleanup

Friday, May 20 - NHLT wine
sampling at Ski Sundown

Sunday, August 7 – Eric Mintel
Jazz Quartet Free Concert

Postal Patron

Get Involved with the Land Trust!

The New Hartford Land Trust welcomes new members and volunteers. You can get some fresh air and see new parts of our town by helping us with trails and other property management activities. You can meet new people and help us raise funds by working with us on events. The New Hartford Land Trust needs volunteer stewards to help monitor its many properties on a regular basis.

We also need help with clean-up and maintenance of properties, fundraising activities, and acquisition activities. Please help us by putting your most valuable gift—yourself—to work for our common goal! If you are interested in volunteering, please call Ron Eigenbrod at 738-4136.

We depend on membership fees to support operations, insurance, mailings, and land maintenance expenses, and to acquire land. Get involved with permanently protecting the conservation value of our land in New Hartford by becoming a member.

Junior: \$10.00 **Individual:** \$20.00 **Family:** \$35.00 **Sustaining:** \$50.00 **Patron:** \$100.00 **Benefactor:** \$250.00

Enclosed is my tax-deductible check for \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____



Please make your check payable to New Hartford Land Trust, and mail to:
New Hartford Land Trust, P.O. Box 272, New Hartford CT 06057