

RLT
2008
Annual Mts.
3/26/08

Attended by
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ROCHESTER LAND TRUST 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission

The Rochester Land Trust, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to land conservation, the preservation of Rochester's rural character, the permanent conservation of open space, and the education of its citizens in the protection of the town's natural resources. The Trust acquires and holds real property for educational, recreational and conservation purposes in the interest of the public and promotes conservation easements on privately held land. The Land Trust cares for and maintains land under its stewardship and assists the Town of Rochester in publicly funded land acquisitions. The Rochester Land Trust holds its land to benefit the public today and for future generations.

Officers

*Russ Keeler, President
Laurene Gerrior, Vice Pres
Herb Wood Jr., Treasurer
Kirby Gilmore, Clerk

Laurene Gerrior
Benjamin Gilmore
Kirby Gilmore
Donna Jeffers
Russ Keeler

Board of Directors

Erin Bryant
*Richard Cutler - outreach committee
Suzanne Farrington

Daniel Kennedy
Robert Lawrence
Bunny Mogilnicki
Maureen Sperry
Herb Wood Jr.

Departing after 3-3yr terms

Year in Summary

1. The **Rochester Land Trust (RLT)** and the **Mattapoisett Land Trust (MLT)** co-sponsored a public walk in May highlighting the Olde Field Farm property on New Bedford Road. The RLT and MLT are currently working on an agreement with a local farmer who plans to restore the fields on this property to hay production in 2008.

2. The Third Annual **Business Partner of the Year Awards** were presented to Covanta SEMASS and A.D. Makepeace Co. at the RLT Annual Meeting in March 2007. Bev Pierce of Bev Loves Books won our First Annual **Volunteer of the Year Award**.
3. RLT organized two spring work days to clear trails and burn brush at several of its properties. **Gilmore Cranberries** brought in a work crew in August to help clear the parking lot at the new Church property.
4. The Stewardship committee, together with staff members of the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, prepared a **Conservation Restriction Baseline Report** for the Sperry property. This report documents the state of the property at the time the restriction is placed so that property monitors can accurately assess changes to the property in the future.
5. RLT completed the acquisition of a stunning 20.8 acre property on Marion Road from George Church. Mr. Church sold the property to the RLT at less than one tenth of its appraised value and named it the "**George E. And Katherine H. Church Wildlife Conservation Area.**" This acquisition was made possible by a grant from the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program and a loan from the Coalition for Buzzards Bay. The RLT celebrated this acquisition with a dedication ceremony and sign unveiling in September.
6. RLT hired forester Philip Benjamin to complete a **Forestry Stewardship Plan** for the Church property. The plan recommends that most of the different forest stands receive selective thinning and/or pruning to enhance forest diversity and improve wildlife habitat.
7. RLT had a booth at the **Rochester Country Fair** with lots of maps of the town that engendered conversation about land protection. We held a raffle throughout the day with the winner's announced at the tenth annual Rochester Land Trust **Pig Roast** that evening.
8. RLT continued its efforts to stay abreast of recent developments in the Land Trust community. Vice president Laurene Gerrior attended a meeting on **Land Trust Accreditation** and President Russ Keeler attended a seminar titled "**Preserving Family Lands: Tax Planning and Land Conservation**".
9. RLT ordered property signs and installed them as practicable on its properties. **ATV prohibited** signs were also purchased and installed where necessary.
10. RLT submitted a filing to the **Rochester Conservation Committee** requesting that it be allowed to selectively remove some vegetation from the Shadow Farm Pond to enhance views and slow encroachment. This request was initiated by the **Shadow Farm Homeowner's Association**. Permission was granted at a hearing in January 2008 and the work completed in March 2008.

11. Acushnet Veterinarian **Dr. Christine Gaumont** donated a conservation restriction on 7.19 acres of property she owns on New Bedford Road. Dr. Gaumont father, Roland, previously raised sheep on the property.

12. **Russ and Wendy Keeler** donated a conservation restriction on 59.56 acres of land on Vaughan Hill Road. The property, called **Red Barn Farm**, has several hayfields, over 40 acres of mixed forest, 3 vernal pools, and an intermittent stream.

13. A **Conservation Restriction (CR)** is an easement that permanently restricts development of a property. The landowner continues to hold the deed and is typically able to utilize the property for farming or forestry, or leave it wild. Property under a CR remains private. Both the Gaumont and Red Barn Farm CR's are co-held by the RLT and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (CBB). The CBB provided substantial technical expertise in drawing up the agreements to meet both party's needs.

14. RLT received an **anonymous gift of \$150,000** to be used for the acquisition of land for conservation and/or the acquisition of conservation restrictions. The amount of this donation has placed RLT over the threshold whereby a **Review of Financial Statements** by a **Certified Public Accountant** is required.

15. **Membership** in the Rochester Land Trust increased to over 175 individual, family and business members in 2007.

Land in Trust

Name of parcel	Date acquired	Size acres
Byrne	1998	5.8
Shadow Farm	1998	9.21
Rounseville South CR	2002	99
Eastover/Marys Pond Road CR	2005	62
Center Village	2005	28
Sperry CR	2005	13.5
Kirby	2006	3.5
Mary's Pond Beach CR	2006	1.56
Haskell Woods	2006	26.5
Church	2007	20.8
Gaumont	2007	7.19
Red Barn Farm	2007	59.56
Total		336.62

CR = Conservation Restriction
 → Monitor on a yearly basis

Financial Report

	Operating Fund checking	Land Fund mon. mkt. 1	anony. gift mon.mkt. 1	Endowment Shad.Farm mon.mkt.2
Balance 31 December 2006	\$4,317.05	\$38,955.52	\$0	\$3,811.89
Receipts:				
Membership dues	\$15,365			
Dividends (added to m.m. 1Mar/Apr, not indicated)		\$678.49		
Contributions				
Covanta of SEMASS LP		\$10,000.00		
Anonymous gift			\$150,000	
Other	\$537			
funds transfer		\$12,000		
Interest income		\$1,990.00		\$298.34
In memory of George Lawrence	\$1,185			
Events				
Pig Roast	\$4,120			
Raffle / auction	\$2,135			
Katrina presentation	\$511.67			
Error Apr. (void chk)	\$30.00			
Disbursements:				
Misc.	(\$417.00)			
Postage	(\$929.49)			
Printing	(\$1,372.85)			
Insurance		(\$1,911.00)		
Signs / permits	(\$413.31)			
LTA dues	(\$225.00)			
Funds transfer	(\$12,000.00)			
Events:				
Katrina Lecture	(\$576.92)			
Pig Roast	(\$2,879.28)			
The Pines	(\$103.50)			
Church property purchase: (Rcvd. \$25,000 grant towards purchase, have \$70,000 loan, CBB)				
Deposit preceeding p&s		(\$2,500)		
land purchase		(\$27,500)		
tax credit	(\$54.81)			
Fee's		(\$865.00)		
Appraisal		(\$1,200)		
Legal		(\$500)		
Bal 31 Dec. 2007	\$9,228.56	\$29,148.01	\$150,000	\$4,110.23

Membership

Susan & Clay Adams
Jean Armstrong
Richard & Paulette Arnold
David & Ana Arruda
Jack & Ann Ayers
Donald & Linda Bagley
Michael & Elise Bare
Garry Barney
Paul & Cecelia Barratt
David & Heidi Bassett
Warren & Cynthia Bassett
Arthur F Benner
Ann Blasenak
Doris & Hormidas Boucher
Marie-Elena & Norman Bourque
Ben & Bev Brewer
Betty Broome
Helena Brown
Jeffrey Donnelly & Erin Bryant
Victor & Annie Bucchere
Janice Campos
Kevin Cassidy
John & Tess Cederholm
Richard & Joanne Charon
Deborah & Daniel Clark
Michael Conway
Michael & Roxanne Costa
Elise Coyne
Richard & Virginia Cutler
Dick & Linda Cyr
Kenneth Daggett
Palmeda A Daggett
Douglas Davis & Family
Roland & Julianne Dufresne
Sarah Bill RN & Emmet Eby MD
Lynn & Arthur Eddleston
Anna & Lawrence Eich
Patricia Erickson
Constance Eshbach
Laurell & Edward Farinon
Brian & Suzanne Farrington
David Fearing
Jean Fennell
Dan & Diane Finn
Mary McCann & MacGregor Fiske
Katherine Hanson & Jim Fraser
Andrew & Helen Fredricks
Paul & Laurene Gerrior
Ben & Susan Gilmore
Kirby Gilmore
Elizabeth A. Gingras
Brian S. Goulart
Eleanor Gural
Candice & Gerald Hahn
Deborah Hartley
Henry & Bonnie Hartley
Winifred Hartley
Norene Hartley
Greenwood Hartley Jr.
Woody & Walter Hartley
Kevin & Sandy Hastings
Ralph Gifford & Margaret Heffeman
Elsie Heleen
Lisa & James Holden
Tom & Nerija Hopkins
Maureen & David Howard
Donna Jeffers
Amy Johnson
Arnold & Debra Johnson
Charles & Suzanne Kantner
Russell & Wendy Keeler
Helen & George Keeler
Michelle Kirby
Susan Kowalski
Jim & Cathy Laffan
Nancy LaFrance
Colman & Debra Lalli
Robert Lawrence
John Layport
Amelia Leconte
Philip & Cindy LeFavor
Aimee & Asa Lombard
Leon & Iris Love
John & Diane Marrazzo
Damien & Isabel McCann
Louisa Medeiros
George & Laura Mendes
Dawn & David F. Michael
Bunny & Robert Mogilnicki
Cindi & Eric Moreis
John & Maureen Motley
John F. Mueller MD
Marian Pierce & Dylan Murdock
Peter & Lisa Nelson
Girard F. Oliva
Shirley Oliver
Terry O'Neil
Joan Pierce
Sarah & William Pinney
Dennis & Jane Pucello
Peter Rickard
Jean E. Rose
Jean & William Roseman
Karen Chase & Charles Sanderson
Paul M. Schaefer
Timothy Scholz
Richard & Julianne Schworm
Peter See
Don & Diana Shearstone
Edwin Simmons
David & Rosemary Smith
Pamela Sousa
Maureen & Stephen Sperry
Donn Stangohr
Kris & Judy Stoltenberg
Richard W. Straffin
William Straus
Diane Sullivan
Kevin & Kathleen Sylvia
Humphrey L. Tallman
Cynthia Taylor
Susan Peterson & John Teal
Carla Thibeault
Leon & Eugenia Tilly
Dorothy Tuttle
Gregory & Ellen Vaut
James E. Vogel
Lorna Walker
William D. Watling
Mark R. Wellington
Charles & Elizabeth West
Betty E. White
Anna White
Phillip & Jessica Whittaker
Robert & Rebecca Williams
Sarah & Tony Williams
Herbert & Sandra Wood
Pamela Wyman
David A. Zantroski
Thomas Zipoli MD
Linda Rounseville & Eugene Zussy

Business Members

AD Makepeace Company *Sully's Sheet Metal*
Ann Bramhall Yoga *Sunnynook Farms*
Bennett Farm *Towne Pizza*
Bev Loves Books *Yoga With a Twist*
Bunny's Bouquets
Cervelli Farms
Covanta SEMASS
Eastover Farm Stand
First Congregational Church
George Kirby Paint Co
Gilmore Cranberries
Hartley-Rhodes, Inc
Headquarters Taxidermy
Hitching Post
Jonathan Sprouts, Inc.
Kinsale Inn
Koczera Discount Oil
Lisa Bussenger, LMT
Lloyd's Market
Marianne Stebenne, Potter
Marion Family Chiropractic
Mayflower Bank
McGraw Plumbing
*Millenium Reconnective
Healing*
RF Morse & Son, Inc.
Rabbit Run Nursery
R & W Enterprises
Rochester Golf Club
*Sippican Therapeutic Mass &
Bodywork*