

Summary 6/19/2013 Meeting
Lower Ct River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange
Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) Office
145 Dennison Rd., Essex, CT
www.lcrlandtrustexchange.org

Attendees:

Tom Elliott – Westbrook Land Conservation Trust
Melvin Woody – Ct River Land Trust
Gail Reynolds – Haddam Land Trust
David Brown – Middlesex Land Trust
Margot Burns - LCRVCOG
Justin Lemma – Haddam Land Trust
Ryan Campbell – Haddam Land Trust
Kristin Elliott Leas – Westbrook Land Trust
Mark Leas – Westbrook Land Trust
Nancy Rambeau – Essex Land Trust
Rob Smith – East Haddam Land Trust

The meeting began with discussion concerning Regional matters of interest. RiverCOG's *Request for Qualification for the Regional Municipal Geospatial Parcel Update and Upgrade to the Standards of the Cadastral & Parcel Data Standards and Guidelines 1.0 Accepted by the CT Geospatial Information Systems Council 10/24/2012*. The RFQ is part of a grant received from the State of CT OPM through the Regional Performance Incentive Program. The Regional GIS data set creation is part of a project that includes a Regional economic study. To our Regional land trust community the standardized parcel dataset for the 17 town region, to be completed in the Fall of 2014 and current to the Oct. 1st 2013 grand list, will be the COG's ability to more easily produce a regional open space map, at least for fee properties, with further work needed to incorporate conservation easement data and to provide information at a large landscape scale concerning ownership and property information for the purposes of landowner and community outreach. The Region's new Agricultural Council still needs representatives from the towns of Old Saybrook, Cromwell, Haddam, Middlefield, Middletown, and Westbrook. If anyone knows someone that would like to participate please contact Janice Ehlemeyer at the COG office.

At the March meeting it was decided that two subcommittees would be formed instead of the one that was formed at the February meeting. One committee would pursue the creation of the strategic conservation plan under the auspices of the COG and the other, working independently of the COG, but still responsible for reporting back to the full LTE group, would pursue investigating how an organization might be formed to access outside funding sources unavailable to a single land trust but available for larger land acquisition projects on a regional basis.

To that end Committee A is to pursue the creation of the strategic conservation plan. Committee B is to pursue investigating how an organization might be formed to access outside funding sources unavailable to a single land trust but available for larger land acquisition projects on a regional basis. The group decided that Committee A would support the COG's and LTE application to the National Park Service

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program Application for Community Assistance due August 1 for facilitation of the planning process to be carried out on the regular meeting dates of the group beginning in November and lasting for 4 to 6 meetings. The purpose of the facilitated meetings is to come to consensus on what existing 8 environmental resource geographic information system (GIS) layers and their parameters for analysis will be used in a GIS model to create a mapped large landscape scale regional prioritized strategic conservation plan for the LTE.

Committee B is to pursue investigating how an organization might be formed to access outside funding sources unavailable to a single land trust but available for larger land acquisition projects on a regional basis. Some suggestions for its direction were discussed. The first was to think about writing a case statement for the conservation of the Region. Some examples were given and a list of reference materials was handed out (see the end of the document). The case statement going hand in hand with the strategic conservation plan will provide the information needed by LTE members to pursue funding on a regional basis as well as by an individual land trust. Also shown were examples of private foundation funding that had been received in other areas of New England. Web sites to research include:

- <http://foundationcenter.org/>
- <http://nccsdataweb.urban.org/nccsTools.php>
- <http://www.morrisongrants.com/>
- <http://nccsweb.urban.org/>

Gail Reynolds presented Basics of Preserve Management Plans. Her power point is on the LTE website. With her were Justin Lemma and Ryan Campbell, both graduates of the University of Vermont in Environmental Science and Wildlife Biology. Justin and Ryan have been completing management plans for the Haddam Land Trust Preserves for the last two summers.

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Scenic Road Application – LCRVCOG
Venture Smith Document