

Meeting Summary

The Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange

April 16, 2018 / 4:30 – 6:30pm

Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments, 145 Dennison Rd., Essex, CT

The April 16th, 2018 meeting of the Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange (LTE) agenda items included a discussion led by Margot Burns, LTE Coordinator and Sam Gold, Executive Director of the Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) concerning the results of the survey that had been sent concerning the Lower Ct River Land Trust bylaws and how each land trust saw the LTE participating in the frame work of the LCRLT and a final discussion concerning the review of the needs assessment and amount of funding needed for the due diligence funding proposal.

After much discussion about the role that the LTE group will have in the new non-profit there was a suggestion that the Lower Ct River Land Trust (LCRLT) Board (which is the RiverCOG executive committee plus Melvin Woody), officially create an advisory committee of regional land trusts under the umbrella of the non-profit. This committee would take the place of the LTE which has been functioning as an informal group and project of RiverCOG. The advisory committee would be charged with the work associated with obtaining grants and raising funds for regional land trust activities, including land stewardship, land acquisition, and shared services. The advisory committee would make recommendations to the LCRLT Board on land trust policies and projects for adoption and approval.

The recently completed survey of the region's land trusts supported the formalization of the LTE. The idea would be to formalize this committee with a specific membership, officers, agendas and minutes, and decision making and conflict resolution processes. The envisioned process would be for the land trusts in our region to formally choose to participate in the advisory committee and appoint a representative. All land trusts operating in the Lower Connecticut River Valley Region would be eligible to join the committee. The Salem Land Trust has been very active in the LTE and I would like consideration of allowing Salem to continue participation. Melvin Woody will be both a member of this advisory committee and of the Board

It was decided by the group to pursue the due diligence funding for \$100,000 through RiverCOG until the LCRVLT is more firmly established.