

President's Message

I am pleased to report to you that the state of the North County Land Trust is strong and that we are well positioned to fulfill our mission. We begin 2006 with a balanced budget and an aggressive set of goals for this year. We have an active Board of Directors, a dedicated Director of Land Protection, and a growing enthusiastic membership.

During the past five years, rising property values and obsolete zoning by-laws have presented an enormous challenge to those of us committed to protecting open space in North Worcester County. Land owners are under ever increasing pressure to sell family lands to real estate developers and antiquated zoning by-laws have unfortunately encouraged more development of the rural areas in our communities. These challenges have increased the urgency of our work in land protection.

The NCLT Board has developed a comprehensive set of goals for this year. The goals are in the areas of Organization, Land Protection, and Stewardship. Our Organizational Goals include increasing our membership and improving communication. One target in the area of communication will be to establish a NCLT website. Our Land Protection Goals will include aggressively looking for new opportunities to obtain property and conservation restrictions. Limited government funding will require us to be bold and creative. One example of this is working with real estate developers to encourage Open Space Residential Developments and Limited Developments that result in large contiguous tracts of open space donated to NCLT. Our Stewardship Goals include trail creation & maintenance, promoting education, forest stewardship, and CR monitoring activities by both volunteers and our new Stewardship Coordinator.

I would like to acknowledge the important contributions of our past president, Bill Marshall, former treasurer, Brian Roberts and former clerk, Allan Foster. The guidance provided by these officers during the past several years has been essential to our organizational development and our progress in achieving our goals. In closing, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our generous members who have donated both their time and money to the success of our land trust.

Alan Rousseau, President
North County Land Trust

2005-The Year in Review

New Directors. While saddened by the departure of some directors who have served us well for many years, we welcomed three new directors who bring great experience, a history of community involvement and a strong belief in our mission. Sharon Cronin of Lunenburg is a lawyer and a member of the Applewild School community. Clayton Hobart of Leominster is a teacher at the Francis Parker Charter Essential School and a professional environmentalist. Our new President, Alan Rousseau of Gardner has been very active in conservation issues in his community.

Targeted Fundraising. NCLT depends entirely on membership dues and contributions to finance operations and to work on land protection projects. We have had good success reaching out to the communities where we hold conservation land and where we are working on land protection projects. Through generous donations to the Crocker Conservation Area Stewardship Fund, we have hired our new Stewardship Coordinator, Christopher Reed. Donations to the Westminster Midstate Trail Fund helped to finance our work on this ongoing project to protect land in the Midstate Trail corridor.

Stewardship. The properties we steward include those we own and those on which we hold Conservation Restrictions. For the conservation land we own, our stewardship goals include improving public access and increasing the use of our properties for recreational and educational purposes. In Fitchburg, students at Applewild School have been doing ecology field work on the Crocker Conservation Area. In Gardner, we have been working to create a trail system on the Rome Conservation Area. To manage the natural resources on our properties, we are preparing Forest Stewardship Plans for the Crocker Conservation Area and the Sibley Property in Westminster. We are working to improve monitoring of the conservation restrictions we hold on privately owned land in Lunenburg, Fitchburg and Templeton.

Land Protection Projects. At year-end, we anticipated the completion of two long-term projects. In Westminster, the Midstate Trail Project became part of a regional land protection project named, "Southern Monadnock Plateau" which was submitted to the federal Forest Legacy Program for funding. In Gardner, we are working with the developer of the Bailey Brook subdivision and municipal officials to protect 60 acres of open space adjacent to our Rome Conservation Area.

Goals for 2006. While we are satisfied with our progress in 2005, we look forward to achieving these goals in 2006: 1) A web page. 2) Management Plans for our conservation areas in Fitchburg and Westminster. 3) Opening our Rome Conservation Area to public access. 4) Facilitating educational use of our Crocker Conservation Area by public schools. 5) Monitoring all conservation restrictions we hold. 6) Increasing the work of volunteers on the Crocker Conservation Area and Rome Conservation Area. 7) Increasing public awareness of our land protection work and of our conservation areas.

Janet Morrison, Esq.
Executive Director/Director of Land Protection

Board Designated Funds

Red Line Wall Systems	<i>Crocker Conservation Area</i> Rosemary Kemp	Robert Smith
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Westminster Midstate Trail Project

Alicia Altieri, Bernard McHugh, AMC, Ashburnham Conservation Trust, Brook Bound Nursery, Rae Burns, Jeffrey Blanchette, Laura Casker, CROWD, Rosemary Kemp, Leeann Lamsa, Michael Landry, Montachusett Reg. Planning Com., Niemi Insurance Agency, Inc., S.T.O.P., Kimball Simpson, Richard Vaillette, Wachusett Brewing Company, Inc., W.E.S.T.

Members & Contributors

Lucy Crocker
Abisalih
Frank & Brenda Bangrazi
Banknorth Massachusetts
Samuel Blair
Jonathan & Elizabeth Blake
Bovenzi, Inc.
Leslie & Peter Bovenzi
Christopher Bramley
Kenneth W. Caron
Brian Cote
Alan B. Crocker
Bigelow Crocker, Jr. & Jeanne Crocker
David Crocker
Lucilla Crocker
Martha P. Crocker
Todd & Caroline Crocker
James & Alexandra Dannis
Lorraine DeSouza
Doors Unlimited, Inc.
Glenn Eaton
Donald & Marion Erb
Fitchburg Savings Bank
Allan D. Foster
Foster Appraisal & Consulting, Inc.
Foster-Healy Real Estate
Charles Gelinias
Eva M. Haakala

Constance Hall
Wendy & Allan Ham
Linda Hoffman
Kelly Jennison
Rosemary C. Kemp
Brandon Kibbe
Norman LeBlanc
Scott K. LeMay
Ray Lyons
William & Donna Marshall
John McNamara
Janet Morrison
Dr. & Mrs. John J. Murphy
Orangewood Development Corp
Peter & Nancy Orni
Red Line Wall Systems
Susanne Richey
Brian Roberts
Allen Rome
Rome Insurance Agency, Inc.
Francisco & Janet Rubira
Henri L. Sans, Jr.
Meriwether C. Schmid
Julia & Gene Sorbo
Larry Student
David Sven
Karen A. Tucker
Wachusett Development and Construction
Carolyn C. Winslow
Workers' Credit Union

Board of Directors:

Alan Rousseau, *President*

Norman LeBlanc, *Treasurer*

Brandon Kibbe, *Clerk*

Trevor Bonilla

Sharon Cronin

Glenn Eaton

Clayton Hobart

Allen Rome

**Janet Morrison, Esq.,
Executive Director
*Director of Land Protection***



2005 Financial Report

Revenues

Membership Dues & Contributions	36,085.00
Bd. Designated Funds:	
Crocker Conservation Area	4,625.00
Westminster Midstate Trail	2,492.00
Bank interest	131.82
Reimbursed Expenses	400.00
Total Revenues	43,733.82

Expenses

Contract Labor	28,527.50
Conferences	35.00
Insurance	2,941.00
Memberships	475.00
Printing & Copies	829.18
Office Supplies & Miscellaneous	502.22
Postage and Delivery	419.00
Travel	823.91
Professional Fees	2,000.00
Total Expense	36,552.81
Net Income	7,181.01

2005



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