

The Warren Conservator

Fall 2012



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Warren Land Trust Mission Statement

The Warren Land Trust is an advocacy group dedicated to the preservation of the rural character of Warren. Its mission is to preserve farmland, open space, natural and endangered resources such as wetlands, forests and wildlife habitats, to encourage outright gifting of land for permanent protection and the use of conservation easements to preserve open space.

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From The President's Desk

Permit me to comment on my colleagues at the Land Trust. I have never witnessed 'volunteer' Board members devote more time, effort and meticulous attention to detail than has the Land Trust Board in the past six months. We suspected that the accreditation process would be exceedingly time-consuming, and we were correct. Yet when faced with writing substantial new land stewardship, financial, and governance policies, all members assumed their draft-writing responsibilities. In addition to our regular Board meetings, committees rendered detailed accounts of record keeping, conflict of interest tracking, financial reporting, strategic planning and land management. Indeed, we knew this would challenge our Board and we are appreciative of the support we have received from the town and the Kent Land Trust. Dan Hulseberg has led the quest for accreditation in a thoughtful and organized manner, and the hope is that we will make formal application in 2013.

Our annual fundraising drive got underway this spring. Returns thus far are ahead of last year, and we are grateful for your support. We are mindful of our responsibility to use your dollars wisely, and know you will be pleased to read below about a grant we recently received which will reinforce our financial good-health.

We also continue our efforts to reach out to similarly minded organizations in the community. Along these lines, a very productive and collegial meeting with the Lake Waramaug Task Force was held in June. As you will read below, we agreed upon a number of mutual issues, which should produce a fruitful liaison between Boards. In addition, the Land Trust happily participated in Town Cleanup Day alongside Town Parks & Recreation. We plan to make this an annual event, and are very grateful to all who participated.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we hope that you will have visited our booth at the 2012 Warren Fall Festival. This year we will present a raffle with three excellent prizes: a state-of-the-art kayak with paddles and life vest, a gift certificate from L.L. Bean, and a voucher for a Christmas tree from the Angevine Tree Farm.

Finally, we sincerely hope that all members will attend the annual meeting of the Land Trust at the Academy on November 17. The annual meeting notice on the mailing panel provides further details. We welcome your participation and urge you to feel free to contact any member of our Board of Directors with questions or comments.

Ted Morse
Ted Morse, President

WLT Joins in Town Cleanup and Swap Meet

On April 29th the people of Warren came together for a common goal, to clean up the roadsides around town. The Cleanup was organized by the Warren Parks and Recreation. In keeping with its efforts to increase the visibility of the Land Trust in town, WLT supported and participated in the event, along with the Warren Volunteer Fire Company, Warren Library volunteers and other townspeople. It was a picture perfect blue sky morning as volunteers met at the Fire House, chose an area of town to cover, picked up a trash bag, and spread out around town. By the end of four hours, eighty percent of the Warren's roads were free of trash! Refreshments were provided by Land Trust board member Jack Baker and his wife Pam, and fresh baked goods and coffee were donated by the Rooster Tail Inn. Thanks to all who participated -- look for the Town Cleanup announcement next spring!

WLT also supported the town Swap Meet, which ran simultaneously with the Cleanup. The Swap Meet gave residents an opportunity to bring no-longer-used household items, sports equipment, toys, electronics and other things to swap with others. Tables were set up in front of the Fire House. WLT members contributed many items. Items remaining were taken to the Visiting Nurses Association or to Goodwill.

Update on the Accreditation Process

It was a busy summer for the Warren Land Trust. Particular efforts were directed toward drafting policies and documents in support of our "Land Trust Standards and Practices," as adopted last year.

As previously reported, the Warren Land Trust has developed a work plan of various actions to be implemented in our pursuit of accreditation. These actions include the drafting of certain policies and documents to

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Left to right: Ted Pettit (Warren Fire Chief), Ted Morse (Land Trust President), Kit Lundberg (head of Parks and Rec), Rebecca Neary (VP of Land Trust), Jack Baker (Land Acquisition/Stewardship Chair of Land Trust).

Meet the Iconoclastic Tom Sarsfield



Every board or organization desires a knowledgeable go-to person with the talent and experience to take on difficult tasks and facilitate substantial results. Tom Sarsfield has - without ever being directly asked - accepted that position with the Land Trust.

Since moving to Warren in 1998, Tom has been an integral part of many aspects of town government, and we are privileged that he shares our passion for protecting the natural environs of this unique town.

Tom was raised in Brooklyn, where he attended Brooklyn Prep and City College.

It was also in Brooklyn that he met his wife Rosemary who, quite literally, was the "girl who lived around the corner." After serving in the US Army as a

Military Policeman for two years, Tom worked for the phone company for five years before joining the Xerox Corporation in 1963. From that point until his retirement, Tom served as the Director of Technical Services for the Latin American Division of the company.

"Retirement" has been a relative term since Tom and Rosemary arrived here in Warren. Tom served on the Planning and Zoning Board for nine years and on the Wetlands Commission for eleven years. Additionally, Tom was a member of the School Board for three years. Rosemary Sarsfield is currently Treasurer for the Warren Public Library. At the urging of Land Trust member Bill DeSeta, Tom joined us and has been responsible for successfully launching our website, re-working and updating our mailing list, planning our raffle for the Warren Fall Festival, and serving on the Governance and Stewardship Committees as we work toward Accreditation by the National Land Trust Alliance. In short, Tom is always there to take on indispensable tasks which facilitate our work. His knowledge of the town, its land holdings, and the natural surroundings has been a major asset to the Land Trust. We are fortunate to have this talented, unselfish colleague working for the betterment of the town.

Colonial Homesite Exploration

Photos: Martha Winkel



Foundation

A few years ago Dr. Adil Mulla of Melius Road discovered the remains of a previously unknown colonial homesite on his property. Town Historian Ellen Paul and Land Trust Board member Rebecca Neary contacted State Archaeologist Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, who became keenly interested in exploring, mapping, and dating

the site. On June 5, he and a group of Warren residents, including members of the Land Trust, Historical Society, Library and town Planning and Zoning Commission, explored the site together. Excitement ran high!

Dr. Bellantoni, Dr. Mulla and Ms. Paul shared their extensive knowledge with the group as we investigated the site. From his previous explorations of the property, Dr. Mulla pointed out the stone foundation of a house, the remnants of two wells, a charcoal pit, and a cranberry bog that had two parallel channels leading from it that would have drained the bog after the fruit had been harvested.



Mulla & Bellantoni explaining



Metal Detecting

Dr. Bellantoni could tell that the two wells were constructed at different periods of time and using different construction techniques, and that whereas the well near the house would have been for household use, the larger one farther away was probably for watering livestock. Dr. Bellantoni discovered two small enclosures just west of the foundation which might have been the foundations of sheds or perhaps a birthing stall for cattle.

Craig Nelson of the Town Zoning Office and his friend Bill Harrison came equipped with metal detectors. They covered the area around the foundation and neighboring paddock areas for evidence of metal artifacts; the locations were

identified with flags for inclusion in a site map.

Land Trust board member Tim Angevine, with the help of fellow board member Jack Baker, surveyed the site extensively. Mr. Angevine has produced a site map for use by the Historical Society, the Land Trust and Dr. Bellantoni. Martha Winkel of the Warren Town Library took photographs.



Group Shot

From the size of the site, the extensive stone walls, the number of foundations and types of structures, Dr. Bellantoni concluded that the farm must have been large and fairly well-to-do. The charcoal pit and cranberry bog are indications of commercial enterprises carried out on the property.

The date of farm could not be pinpointed, except that it predated the invention of cement (as evidenced by the construction method of the smaller well), and was in operation after the invention of cement (shown by the construction method of the larger well).



Surveying



The Cranberry Bog

The Land Trust and the Historical Society are hopeful Dr. Bellantoni will make a presentation to the town once investigation of and research on the site has been concluded.

The WLT currently holds over 650 acres under permanent protection. IF YOU AREN'T A MEMBER OF THE WARREN LAND TRUST, WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN NOW!!

Becoming a Member of The Warren Land Trust is easy. Simply cut off this page and send it to our mailing address below, along with your check. We will send you a receipt along with our thanks for your generous, 100% tax deductible contribution. Please include your name, address and email so that we may include you in our email updates. Choose the type of membership you would like:

____ Family Membership \$25

____ Land Protector \$100

____ Land Caretaker \$300

____ Land Conservator \$500

____ Land Steward \$1,000

____ Land Grantor \$2,500

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to: The Warren Land Trust, Inc.

MAIL THIS FORM AND CHECK TO: The Warren Land Trust, Inc. 140 Town Hill Road, Warren, CT 06754

**Please make any necessary corrections to your name and address
on the mailing panel and submit to the WLT.**

WLT and LWTF Working Together

This summer, at the behest of Lake Waramaug Task Force board member and Warren Land Trust supporter David Robinson, Land Trust representatives met and exchanged ideas with their counterparts on the Task Force at the Robinsons' farm overlooking the lake. It became immediately obvious that our two organizations shared common goals and that we should be mutually supportive of each other. We have agreed to pursue a more formal line of communication between the two organizations.

Going forward, we are delighted that Tim Angevine will represent the Land Trust and that Ken Hecken will serve as his counterpart on the Task Force, serving as liaisons between the Boards. Tom McGowan, Executive Director of the Task Force, pointed out that "both Tim and Ken have a wealth of local knowledge and strong interest in the protection of the land and natural resources in the Lake Waramaug watershed." We are both aware of pending challenges in preserving land bordering Sucker Brook, an important part of the Lake Waramaug watershed.

We look forward to examining the potential for working together with the Task Force on this or other land conservation projects serving the town of Warren.

Update on the Accreditation Process (Con't. from page 1)

further enhance our performance as a non-profit organization. Respective committees have been established and meet regularly to address issues pertaining to governance, finance, acquisitions and stewardship, among other things. Responsibility for preparing the various policies and documents required for accreditation therefore has been delegated accordingly amongst these committees.

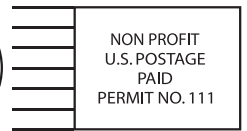
Fortunately, to assist with our document drafting efforts, the Warren Land Trust was awarded a coaching grant from the Connecticut Land Conservation Council ("CLCC"). Rob Cardeiro of the CLCC has been working closely with Rebecca Neary and the governance committee to review draft documents and provide valuable guidance. Similarly, the Warren Land Trust has once again sought the assistance and insight of Connie Manes from Manes Consulting LLC with land trust specific issues and questions, while Denise Trevenen, Esq., of Trevenen & Coploff, LLC, has graciously provided legal advice and counsel.

Central to our documentation efforts is the development of a state-of-the-art records keeping policy and infrastructure. Thanks to Tom Sarsfield, the Warren Land Trust has secured space at the new Warren Town Hall for the storage and safe keeping of original documentation in physical form. Additionally, the law firm of Baker Botts, LLP, kindly provided its pro bono services and support to collect, organize and scan electronic copies of all existing documentation. These documents are now available remotely through a secure, internet-based site for access by all board members. The Warren Land Trust continues to forge ahead to preserve our past and natural surroundings.

WLT Receives \$4,000 Grant

The Warren Land Trust is pleased to announce that we will be receiving a \$4000 grant from the CT Land Conservation Council. The funds are earmarked to enhance our land stewardship capacity, allowing us to engage third party consultants to inventory natural resources and identify conservation goals within our preserves. WLT board members will be working closely with these consultants to develop further the knowledge and experience necessary to create management plans that will protect the natural habitats of our land preserves.

The grant process entailed review of the WLT's mission statement, strategic plan and recent work towards accreditation. We are honored to report that the grant committee considered us deserving of the maximum amount available to an individual land trust. Funding for the grant was made possible with support of the CT Community Foundation.



ANNUAL MEETING of the WARREN LAND TRUST

**Saturday, November 17th
9:00 am at the Academy**

The Annual Meeting of the Warren Land Trust will be held on Saturday, November 17th, 2012 at 9AM at The Academy, Sackett Hill Road. All Land Trust members are invited and encouraged to attend and participate. The meeting should last approximately one hour. Among the items on the agenda: President Ted Morse will provide a general update of Land Trust activities, Treasurer Barbara Page will report on our finances, Accreditation Committee Chair Dan Hulseberg will discuss our pre-application process, and Land Acquisition and Stewardship Chair Jack Baker will speak on recent developments in WLT land management. We hope to see you on November 17th. Refreshments will be provided. Please don't hesitate to contact us at info@warrenlandtrust.org with any questions. We hope to see you there!

SPOTLIGHT ON LAND TRUST HOLDINGS

The Coords Preserve

Photos: Bill DeSeta

In December of 2005 Priscilla S. Coords, who served as Warren's Town Clerk from 1969 through 1981, made one more contribution to our town: she and her two children, Barbara and Deane S. Coords, donated nearly 32 acres to the Warren Land Trust.

The property is off of Angevine Road in the old Town Hill section, which was once the center of the town. It consists of woodlands and a brook as well as an easement to a pond that has been retained by the Coords family. The rear of the property and much of its northern boundary is adjacent to Wyantenock State Forest, thus providing an extended swath of protected land. The southern boundary is along City Hill Road, which was abandoned by the town in 1905.



Mrs. Coords and her husband Deane M. Coords originally purchased the property with an early American farmhouse at 145 Angevine Road when they moved to Warren from New York City. The family retained the farmhouse and acreage along Angevine Road. Of her gift, Mrs. Coords said, "We love this town. We moved here in 1949 and have wonderful memories of our life in the country. Our donation is our thank you to the people of Warren." But we think our readers will agree, we are the ones who should thank the Coords family for protecting open space in our town!

Submit Your Images of Warren to our Biennial Land Trust Photo Contest

We are holding our second biennial photo contest! We are looking for photographs taken in Warren that reflect the mission of the Land Trust by depicting our town's natural beauty and/or its rural, agricultural heritage. The winners of our last contest, in 2010, featured photos of our town in all its New England summer glory. This time, we present you with a different challenge: capturing the visual appeal of a Warren autumn or winter.

The winning photo and a runner-up will be featured in the Spring 2013 issue of the Warren Land Trust Newsletter; all submissions will be posted on our website (www.warrenlandtrust.org). The contest winner will also receive a gift certificate to the Hickory Stick Bookstore in Washington Depot. The photographs will be judged by Bill DeSeta, a former Warren resident and board member of the Warren Land Trust with professional expertise in both cinematic and still photography.

Photos may be sent as an attachment to Land Trust Vice-President Rebecca Neary at rbneary@me.com, or they may be mailed to the Warren Land Trust, c/o Neary, 15 Melius Road, Warren CT 06754. All submissions must be received by March 1, 2013. Mailed photos may not be returned. We are looking forward to seeing Warren through your eyes!