

LYME LAND TRUST BULLETIN

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

3/86

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

With this issue your Land Trust embarks upon an ambitious undertaking, the publication of a newsletter, The Lyme Land Trust Bulletin. Its purpose, obviously, will be to communicate to you, our members, matters which we feel are timely and important to land conservation. We will, however, consider the job only half done if we do not receive comment and communication from you.

Some years ago the directors, with much care, set forth the purposes of the Lyme Land Trust in a brochure which has, at various times, been distributed to our membership. The statement is as valid today as it was when it was written.

"Lyme is unique. Situated on the only unspoiled major estuary on the East Coast, it is one of the last if not the last shoreline towns in Connecticut relatively unscathed by industrial or suburban development. It's rolling hills, river vistas and rural environment offer delight and refreshment to all who live or visit here. But we must not take it for granted that Lyme will remain forever the same. Population pressures have significantly altered the character of the Towns surrounding Lyme. The Connecticut River Estuary Regional
(continued on p. 2)

View of Hamburg Cove and village looking across parts of Czikowsky property as discussed in article below



RIGHTS TO FURTHER SUBDIVIDE CZIKOWSKY PROPERTY TRANSFERRED TO LAND TRUST

The United Bank and Trust Company, trustee for various members of the Czikowsky family and owner of approximately 200 acres in the Hamburg Cove area, has conveyed to the Lyme Land Conservation Trust the rights to further subdivide this property.

Plans for subdividing this acreage, located on both sides of Joshuatown Road, have been approved in 1985 and in January 1986 by the Lyme Planning and Zoning Commission. The subdivision plans were submitted by Samuel M. Strong, Realtor, of Old Lyme on behalf of the United Bank and Trust Company. Coincidental with these subdivisions, the United Bank agreed to convey to the Land Trust the right to subdivide the parcels created by the Subdivision Plan. The restrictions 'run with the land' and will be binding upon future owners of these parcels.

As Frederick Gahagan, counsel to the Land Trust explained it, "The conveyance of the Conservation Restriction from the Trustee (of the Czikowsky estate) to the Land Trust is simply a way to insure that the density of development does not increase."
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President's Letter
(continued from p. 1)

Planning Agency calculates that Lyme itself will approximately double in size in 25 years. Lyme will not maintain its unique qualities in the face of pressures if we stand idly by.

"We cannot stop the clock and halt development, nor should we attempt to do so. But by regulating the pattern and pace of development and by exercising foresight to set aside lands for conservation, we still have the chance to preserve the character of our town. Success will depend, above all else, on the strength of community support for numerous public and private agencies providing leadership in planning and conservation efforts."

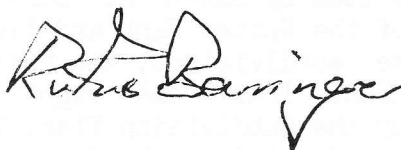
Two points are worth repeating.

1) We cannot take it for granted that Lyme, as we know it today, will remain the same. Maintaining its charm will require vision and effort on all of our parts.

2) We cannot stop the clock. Lyme will change, but if we can influence the change in a positive way, we will, in my opinion, have discharged our trust.

With some trepidation but with much optimism, I commend to you our Bulletin.

Sincerely yours,



Rufus Barringer
President

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
FOR ANNUAL CLEANUP

Annual Roadside Cleanup will take place this year on April 26 and 27. Chairman Charlie Harding of Blood Street is being assisted by Graham Raynolds of Hadlyme. Speaking to reporters, Harding said, "The Cleanup has become a fixture in our town. Its success depends upon volunteers. Please lend us a few hours of your time to keep Lyme clean and green."

Volunteers should call 434-7423 for information.



GIFTS TO LYME LIBRARY FROM
LAND TRUST

Subscriptions to eleven leading nature magazines have been contributed to the Lyme Library by the Lyme Land Conservation Trust. This is part of a continuing program by the Land Trust to help make available to Lyme citizens the best current information on nature and environmental affairs. For the second year the following magazines are included:

- * The National Geographic
- * The Smithsonian Magazine
- * Natural History
- * Audubon
- * Solar Age
- * National Wildlife
- * American Forest
- * Horticulture
- * Conservationist
- * Environment
- * The Conservation Directory; 1986

Anyone who is interested is invited to go to the Lyme Library to read. Suggestions for journals on related subjects to be added to the list will be welcomed. Just contact the Lyme Library.

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED

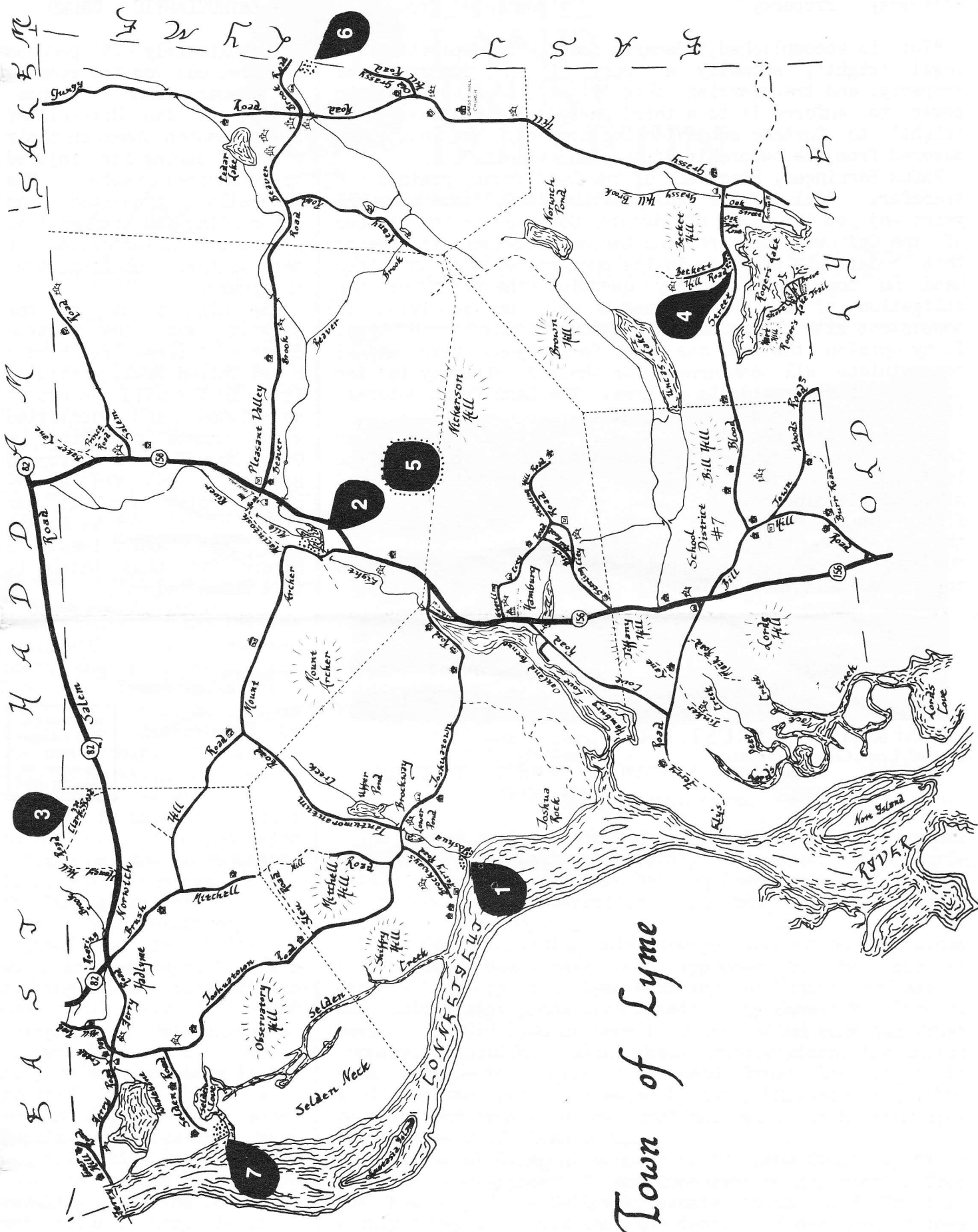
The annual meeting of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust has been scheduled for Thursday night, June 12 at the Lyme Consolidated School at 8 pm. A topic of general interest will be addressed and refreshments will be served.

Please mark the date on your calendar.



PROPERTY IN THE LYME LAND
CONSERVATION TRUST

1. Ram's Horn Creek Preserve: 18.65 Acres. Gift of Frank & Nancy Stephenson and William & Shirley Moore.
2. Moulson's Pond Preserve: 18.65 Acres. Gift of Mrs. Orlean V. Curtin.
3. Honey Hill Sanctuary: 28.75 Acres. Gift of The Nature Conservancy.
4. Becket Hill Preserve: 1.5 Acres. Gift of Duncan & Charlotte Sutphen and Hans & Hildegard Rennhard.
5. Slawson Tract: 57.3 Acres: Gift of Mrs. Marguerite Slawson.
6. Beaver Brook Preserve: 9.22 Acres. Gift of Library Associates.
7. Selden Cove Easement: 17 Acres. Gift of Paul B. Selden.



Town of Lyme

"This is accomplished," Gahagan said, "by separating the legal 'right', normally a part of the ownership of property, and transferring this 'right', together with the power to enforce it to a third party. In this case, the 'right' to further subdivide the property has now been severed from the ownership of the land itself."

Rufus Barringer, President of the Land Trust, praised the transfer. "All of us in Lyme," he said, "have over the years enjoyed the view of Hamburg Cove across the meadows of the Czikowsky property and become accustomed to seeing this beautiful property in its open state. On the other hand no one can seriously question the right or the obligation of the trustee bank to sell or subdivide it consistent with the Zoning Regulations of the Town of Lyme. In my opinion the Bank has gone far beyond this and I congratulate all concerned for their sensitivity to the concerns of the residents of Lyme. The Land Trust welcomes its new role in this transaction."

Speaking for the Land Trust, Barringer said, "Our interest is not in blocking intelligent development of the land but in trying to make sure that the intensity and style of development is in keeping with the open and rural flavor of the community. In this sense the transfer of these rights to the Land Trust is very much in keeping with our objectives, and I cannot help but think that everyone in Lyme will ultimately benefit by this action."

RAPTOR TALK DRAWS
ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD

Approximately 75 persons ventured out on the evening of January 22nd to hear Stuart and Jan Mitchell of East Hampton speak on their work of caring for injured or abandoned raptors. The Mitchells presented an interesting and informative program, showing slides of many of their charges over the years.

The high point of the program was the introduction of three live birds: a Red Tailed Hawk, unable to live in the wild because it associated and identified with humans too long; a Great Horned Owl, deformed because it was fed an improper diet when it was picked up and kept as a pet; and last and not least, a Screech Owl that thinks it is a human being.

LYME LAND
CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.
Box 1002, Lyme, Connecticut 06371

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