



# LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

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P.O. Box 1002, Lyme, Connecticut 06371

January 2012

Dear Friends of the Lyme Land Trust,

Our Board has made important changes regarding the management of the Lyme Land Trust that we want to tell you about.

We have experienced dramatic growth in recent years. We are now one of the oldest and largest land trusts in New England with stewardship responsibilities for 97 properties totaling more than 2800 acres; 32 we own and 65 are conservation easements on private lands. Stewardship of these properties has become increasingly complex and time consuming.

Many conservation organizations acquire land but do not offer public access. In Lyme almost all of our properties are open to the public. Our directors, staff and volunteers create trails which have to be maintained for safe enjoyment by hikers. Our open space is a precious asset for the people of Lyme and for all who choose to come and share our good fortune.

In recent years, the Lyme Land Trust has become more proactive in offering the public entertaining and educational programs and events, reaching out to photographers and painters for example, to record and celebrate the beauty that surrounds us. We are increasingly focused on reaching out to young people; to get them away from their electronic devices for a few hours and enjoy nature in our woods (supervised of course!).

With the future of state grants uncertain at best in these trying times, we are placing more emphasis on seeking funding through private foundations. Our staff is crucial to helping the Land Trust seek accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance. Accreditation enhances our prospects when applying for grant money.

Recently, the Board determined that the time had come to create the positions of Executive Director and Environmental Director to better manage our increased responsibilities. Both are part-time staff positions, non-voting officers of the Corporation, reporting to the Board of Directors through the President.

We are fortunate that George Moore has agreed to become the first Executive Director. The experience gained serving as our president for almost five years will enable him to make a smooth transition to managing the day to day business of the Trust.



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The Board also approved promoting current Project Manager Lisa Niccolai, to Environmental Director. Lisa is a graduate of the Yale School of Forestry, a resident of Lyme, and an invaluable asset in assessing the conservation value of potential acquisitions and applying for grants. She will remain a critical resource in our Stewardship program.

At the same time Linda Bireley will be retiring from her position on our staff as Executive Assistant. We wish to thank her for her many years of service as a Director, President, and most recently serving on our staff. We know that Linda will remain a strong supporter of the Land Trust.

The Board is delighted to announce the election of John Pritchard as our new president. John and his wife Lee have owned a house in Lyme for many years and in 1986 were donors of important wetlands along Ely Ferry Rd. John is an accomplished attorney, a proven leader and an active outdoorsman.

We continue to work diligently to keep our costs low and to direct members' donations to land acquisition and good stewardship. Indeed, these management changes will not substantially increase the Land Trust's staffing costs.

As we get closer to our 50<sup>th</sup> year of proudly serving the people of Lyme, the Land Trust looks forward to the future with enthusiasm and optimism. Thank you for your support,

The Board of Directors

◇ John Pritchard, President ◇ Temp Brown, Vice President ◇ Andy Baxter, Treasurer  
◇ George Lombardino, Secretary ◇ George Moore, Executive Director  
◇ Lisa Niccolai, Environmental Director ◇ Diana Boehning ◇ Carrie Ermler ◇ Don Gerber  
◇ Tom Shoemaker ◇ Molly Turner ◇ Humphrey Tyler ◇ Milt Walters ◇ Melvin Woody ◇ Rick Worcester