

Summary 01/18/2012
7PM
Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange
CRERPA Office
455 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, CT

Attendees:

Kristin Elliott Leas – Westbrook Land Conservation Trust
Gail Reynolds – Haddam Land Trust
Cindy Sullivan – Haddam Land Trust
Melvin Woody – Ct River Land Trust
Tom Elliott – Westbrook Land Conservation Trust
Rob Smith – East Haddam Land Trust
John Kennedy – Deep River Land Trust
Stanford Brainerd – Lynde Point Land Trust
Linda Bireley – Town of Lyme
David Brown – Middlesex Land Trust
Gregg Mirando – Clinton Land Trust
Stephen Johnson – New England Forestry Foundation

The Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange (LTE) was visited by Stephen Johnson of the New England Forestry Foundation concerning the adaptation of their current Easement/Fee Aggregation Program Model to the needs of the Lower Ct River and Coastal Region. Aggregation models from Massachusetts were reviewed and discussion led to questions of who might or could take the lead as the fiscal agent for the group if a project like this was pursued.

An update on the Menunketesuck/Cockaponset Regional Greenway was given by Margot Burns. The 15 mile multimodal Quinimay Trail which runs through Cockaponset Forest from Weber Woods at Messerschmidt's Pond in northern Westbrook to Swain Johnson Trail off of Walkley Hill Rd. in Haddam, a couple of miles from Higganum center and 3 miles from the intersection at Seven Falls picnic area on Rt. 154 with the Metacomet, Monadnock, Mattabesett New England National Scenic Trail has been mapped, and a draft greenway work map developed. A preliminary meeting was held with Laurie Giannotti of the Greenways Program for the CT DEEP, Westbrook Town Planner, Meg Parulis, Westbrook Conservation Commission Chair Tom Odell, and Margot Burns, CRERPA, to explore the Regional Greenway Concept. Ms. Giannotti encouraged Westbrook to bring their portion of the Greenway to the State Greenway Committee in February, and to keep working on the remainder of the Regional Greenway plan. Support has also been given from Stuart B. McKinney Fish and Wildlife Preserve, and the Town of Chester Conservation Commission. Westbrook Conservation Commission will be holding an open house on Sunday, Jan. 29th from 1-3pm concerning the Greenway.

The next meeting will be scheduled for March 21st, 7pm, CRERPA office.