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**REPORT TO OUR NEIGHBORS
 JANUARY 2012 TO MARCH 2013**

**Helping to Protect and Preserve the
 Rural, Agricultural Landscape
 of Charlotte**



A celebration of land conservators at the Nichols Farm. Pictured from left: Charles Russell, Peter Trono, Dave Nichols, Jessica Sanford, Gil Livingston, Adam Hausmann, Frances Foster, Nancy Hinsdale and Clark Hinsdale.

Join us on Facebook



INTRODUCTION FROM THE BOARD

For many years Frances Foster has written this introductory letter to our annual report. Frances has stewarded the Charlotte Land Trust through numerous successful projects and through many changes that make us a stronger organization. She has led CLT for 13 years and her legacy is evident in the beautiful landscape of our town.

At the end of 2012, Frances stepped down as president, although she will remain on the board. A team of board members will assume interim leadership before a new president is chosen. The board is grateful to Frances for her many years of leadership and looks forward to continuing our work with her to conserve Charlotte's special places.

Charlotte Land Trust Board

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

2012 was very busy, with three projects completed. Two of those were in partnership with the Vermont Land Trust and illustrate one of CLT's most effective strategies. Partnering on projects with the larger statewide conservation groups allows us, as a small unstaffed organization, to do far larger and more complex projects. We provide the local expertise, connections and funding while the larger organization provides technical, organizational and legal support. CLT also does projects on its own, usually those of a size or type that are locally significant in scope.

We want to acknowledge the importance of the Town's Conservation Fund as an essential element in the success of many of our projects. The fund helps us be very competitive for matching grants and broadens the scale and scope of projects that we can do.

PROJECTS

Liam and Laura Murphy donated a conservation easement on 33 acres of land in the northwestern corner of town. The parcel is a good example of clayplain forest and forest habitat and may serve as a core around which further clayplain conservation in the area can form. Many thanks to Laura and Liam for their generous gift!

Dave and Diane Nichols conserved 226 acres of highly scenic and productive farmland and natural areas at their farm on the edge of the East Charlotte Village. Also included in the project was the grant of a trail easement to the Town of Charlotte. This project was completed in partnership with the Vermont Land Trust.

Nancy Hinsdale conserved 56 acres of land just south of the Nichols farm in East Charlotte and sold the land to Adam Hausmann who will move his fruit and berry farm from the Burlington Intervale to the site. Adam's Berry Farm continues the exciting trends for agriculture in Charlotte of diversification and of young farmers becoming established here.

EVENTS

Certainly one of the most fun events we've ever hosted was in August when we kicked off the public fundraising portion of the Nichols and Hausmann/Hinsdale projects with a party at Dave and Diane Nichols'



barn. Hay rides, lots of food, music and visiting with friends and CLT supporters—what a great afternoon! Many thanks to all who made it possible and who attended.

CLT joined in the 250th celebration of Charlotte's charter this past summer by co-hosting with yourfarmstand.com a bike ride through town to several of our local farms. It was a beautiful day with a large enthusiastic turnout. We hope to hold another bike ride in the coming year to showcase our farms and scenery.

The Town Party continues to be one of our favorite events and a fun way to meet many of you. We'll be under the tent again this summer and hope you'll stop by to see information on recently completed and upcoming projects and to chat with us about our work and your ideas.

ORGANIZATION

The financial, legal and administrative work of our organization isn't the stuff of headlines but is essential for meeting our goals. We have recently completed a 5-year strategic plan that, together with the accompanying work plan and schedule, will serve as a framework and guide for our organization.

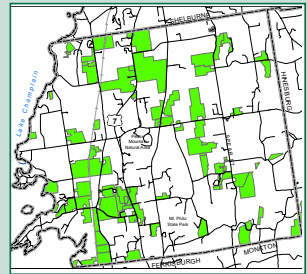
Monitoring conserved properties for compliance with easement conditions is an important part of our conservation responsibilities. CLT conducts yearly site visits of conserved land so that any problems can be addressed in a timely manner. Corrective action on easement violations is a very rare occurrence but we are compliant with best practice standards for land trusts' stewardship responsibilities.

Over the course of this past year Bob Bloch, Phyllis Kroll and Dave Quickel finished their tenures on the board. Their thoughtfulness, commitment to conservation and insight were much appreciated and we thank them for their time and participation. We've recently welcomed new board members Jessie Price and Larry Sommers.



Enthusiastic bikers line up before the July bike ride to tour some local farms and conserved land.

Town of Charlotte Conserved Land, April 2013



Easements with the Vermont Land Trust, Charlotte Land Trust, Lake Champlain Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy

Source: Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

YES! I will help preserve the natural and rural beauty of Charlotte by making a tax-deductible contribution to the *Charlotte Land Trust* at the following level:

- Benefactor \$2,500
- Friend \$100
- Supporter \$1,000
- Contributor \$50
- Sustaining \$500
- Other \$_____

Please provide the following information and mail, along with your check, to Charlotte Land Trust, P.O. Box 43, Charlotte, VT 05445.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please contact me to discuss: conservation of my land, donating development rights, or other planned giving opportunities.

I would like my gift to remain anonymous.

2012 INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME

Contributions		
Unrestricted & Other income	\$13,428	
Nichols & Hinsdale Farm projects	27,441	
Memorial gifts	175	
Stewardship	5,500	
Interest and Dividend	1,136	
Annual Town Contribution	<u>7,959</u>	
Total Income		\$55,639

EXPENSES

Nichols Farm	\$40,500	
Hinsdale/Hausmann Farms	30,750	
Murphy/Maeck Easements	6,868	
Outreach	<u>2,899</u>	
Program subtotal	95%	\$81,017
Fundraising	2%	1,670
Administration	3%	2,757
Total expenses	100%	\$85,444

Total Assets	1/1/2012	\$236,072
Total Assets	12/31/2012	\$206,267*
*Includes Stewardship Fund		\$93,737

Special Thanks

*Logo: Family of Rockwell Kent
Layout: Janice Heilmann
Photos: Rowan Beck, Robin Reid*



Hay wagon at sunset on land recently conserved at the Nichols farm.