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The Newsletter of the Fracestown Land Trust, Inc.



30 Years Ago...

Fracestown Conservation Commission member Connie Varnum had promoted the idea of creating a local land trust for some time, but it was frustration at the lack of support from the Fracestown Selectmen that eventually became the impetus for its creation.

When the heirs of Caroline Lord agreed to gift a conservation easement to the town on two lots—both part of the original Lord Farm and important agricultural land—the Fracestown Selectmen rejected the offer. This was the first conservation easement ever actively pursued by the Fracestown

Conservation Commission, and was a critical element in the protection of the rest of the Lord Farm. Although the Harris Center for Conservation Education stepped in and agreed to accept the easement for this particular project, the experience made it clear there was a need for a private conservation organization that was not encumbered by governmental restrictions or politics.

And so in 1986 the Fracestown Land Trust—first established under the name Fracestown Land Conservation, Inc. and later changed to avoid confusion with the Fracestown Conservation Commission—was created by a

30 Years Ago *Continued on page 2*

30 Years Ago *Continued from page 1*

group of residents concerned about the lack of permanently protected open space in Francestown (essentially just the Lord Town Forest at that time). These residents included Con-Com Chair Scot Heath (also Chair of the land trust for many years), Connie Varnum, John Arnold, David Connard, and Paul Lawrence.

The intent from the beginning was that the land trust would supplement and support the efforts of the Francestown Conservation Commission. The land trust was relatively quiet for several years while the Conservation Commission was busy establishing the Crotched Mountain Town Forest and the Driscoll Hill Town Forest—with the support of the Selectmen.

Around 1999, the organization was revitalized by interest in seeing a large property along Rand Brook conserved. Under the direction of new Chair Jennifer Byington, fundraising efforts began and eventually the property—the start of the Rand Brook Forest—was acquired by the land trust. This coincided with a broadly expanded interest in land conservation around the state and, since that time, the all-volunteer Francestown Land Trust has been actively engaged in many different land protection projects and has received a high level of support from local landowners and residents.

The partnership with the conservation commission proved to be

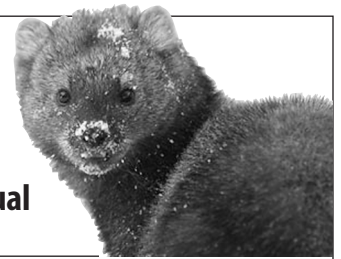
supremely successful and one that has been promoted and emulated around the state. The two organizations work together in many ways—supporting each other's projects by contributing funds or labor, holding easement interests on the other's fee-owned land, and by co-sponsoring education events and programs. Both entities have worked together in partnership with other local and regional organizations on large projects, including the "2010 by 2010" campaign and the Piscataquog River Headwaters Project, which culminated in more than 25 percent of the land in Francestown being protected.

Currently, the FLT owns properties totaling 819-acres—all open for public use. In what seems like a fitting turn of events, the Harris Center eventually turned the conservation easement on the Lord Farm lots over to the Francestown Land Trust.

"Looking forward, a lot of work remains to be done to protect wildlife habitats, wetlands, agricultural lands, productive forests, river and stream corridors—all need our focus and efforts," says Scot Heath, who moved back to town a few years ago and is once again on the Conservation Commission. "I still feel very strongly that there is a vital need for the Francestown Land Trust in our town." ■

Betsy Hardwick and Scot Heath

Hear True Tales at the FLT Annual Meeting



The Francestown Land Trust will conduct its annual meeting at the Old Meeting House of Francestown on Thursday, June 9, 2016. Doors will open at 6:30pm and the meeting will commence at 7:00 pm. After a brief report and elections, our guest speaker, Susie Spikol Faber, from the Harris Center for Conservation Education, will present "The True Tales and Times of New Hampshire's Fisher."

Susie Spikol Faber spent her youth exploring the wild edges of Brooklyn, NY and roving the rolling green hills of southern Vermont. After one statistics class, she abandoned her childhood dream of becoming a wolf scientist and decided that teaching children in the outdoors was just as exciting as working with a pack of wild canines. After interning as an environmental educator with the Central Park Conservancy and several summer stints with Massachusetts Audubon Society, she wandered into the Harris Center in 1991 and never left. Recognizing a good thing when she saw it, Susie became the Community Programs Coordinator and a Teacher/Naturalist at the Harris Center for Conservation Education. When not romping around the Harris Center's Big Woods in search of new additions to her scat and sign collection, Susie and her family spend many hours tending to their orchard, nestled on the edge of Skatutakee Mountain.



Did You Know?

Trail maps of the Rand Brook Forest, Schott Brennan Falls Reserve, Crotched Mountain and Miller/Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area, as well as the Francestown Wildlife Action Plan map can be downloaded from francestownlandtrust.org

The Chairman's Letter

Hello Friends,

Why? Why should we care? Why do we care?

Today is a beautiful Spring day. The sun is shining. The sky is a bright light blue. It's time to get outside, to see the trees show their light green new leaves, to breathe the fresh air, rich with the scents of emerging plant life, to hear the calls of returning birds, to feel the grass underfoot, to taste the first wild greens.

But where to go?

Here in Francestown we are blessed to have many choices to enjoy the outdoors.

- The Schott Brennan Brook Falls Reserve has a lovely waterfall that puts on an impressive show of sight and sound in the Spring as the water swells and crashes down. It is an easy walk, just about a one-half mile from the road to the falls.

- A quieter alternative would be to visit Collins Brook in the Dorothy and Herman C. Miller Family Memorial Forest. It is also a short walk, less than a quarter mile, from the road. The new bridge, built last Fall, crosses Collins Brook to provide access to the Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area. A picnic next to the bridge would be fun. The water is fairly shallow and mesmerizing to watch as it winds its way down the brook. I plan to take my granddaughter, Indigo, there when she visits to sail small paper boats.

Celebrating
30
Years



- One of my favorite places is the large open field on Driscoll Hill, in the Rand Brook Forest. It is what many of us imagine as a perfect country field — surrounded by woods with a view of Rose Mountain. Located about a mile in on an old logging road from the parking lot, the field is far enough away from man-made things, so that all you see are forest, field, hills, and sky—and all you hear are the birds and the breeze. The edge of the field is also a fabulous place for a picnic, with plenty of space for children to run and play games.

Of course, Francestown has many other beautiful outdoor places to enjoy!

Why? Because we care! Because so many have cared.

The hard work and generosity of many people and organizations has given us wonderful

options for experiencing all that Spring has to offer in Francestown. Your interest and support of the Francestown Land Trust continues this work to preserve the special places in our Town, not just for ourselves, but for all those to come. As always, we thank you for your interest and support.

Thank you for caring! ■

Chris Rogers

Introducing Our New Director

Hannah Proctor came to Francestown in 1991 by way of coastal Maine— trading salt air and fog horns for church bells and black flies! (As a registered Maine Guide leading kayaking trips, she still manages to spend a fair amount of time on the ocean.)

Hannah graduated with a B.S. in Fisheries Biology from the University of Washington, College of Fisheries in Seattle. Today, she manages the biology laboratory and staff of



30 at Normandeau Associates, Inc., a New Hampshire based environmental consulting firm.

Hannah was part of the team that spearheaded and continues to co-lead the Invasive Plants Committee for the Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC), which educates home owners and community groups. She was instrumental in the introduction of the *Galerucella* spp. beetle to selected sites, which is helping to control the spread of purple loosestrife and to protect our native wetland species.

2015 Francestown Land Trust Financial Report

preliminary, unaudited

Statement of Income and Expense

Income

Cash Gifts

Annual Fund	11,768.00
Undesignated donations	2,050.00
Processing fees	-27.95
Membership Dues	1,765.00

Investment Income

CG, dividends, and interest.....	13,557.41
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Total Income 29,112.46

Expense

Member relations..... 1,031.84

Operating Costs

Postage and printing	(2.07)
Accounting	867.32
Fees	100.00
Insurance	732.00
Memberships.....	450.00
Investment Fees	1,360.27

Land Maintenance

Property Tax.....	824.19
Insurance	1,918.00
General Maintenance.....	454.96

Easement Stewardship

Insurance	1,595.00
Monitoring	9.00

Project Expense

Stewardship	1,695.17
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Total Expense..... 11,035.68

Total Net Income 18,076.78

Statement of Financial Position

Non-fixed Assets

Cash and short term investments.....	135,965.82
Land Stewardship	255,282.24
Grant Receivable.....	1710.00

Total Non-fixed Assets..... 392,958.06

Fixed Assets

Fee owned land (819 acres).....	782,363.53
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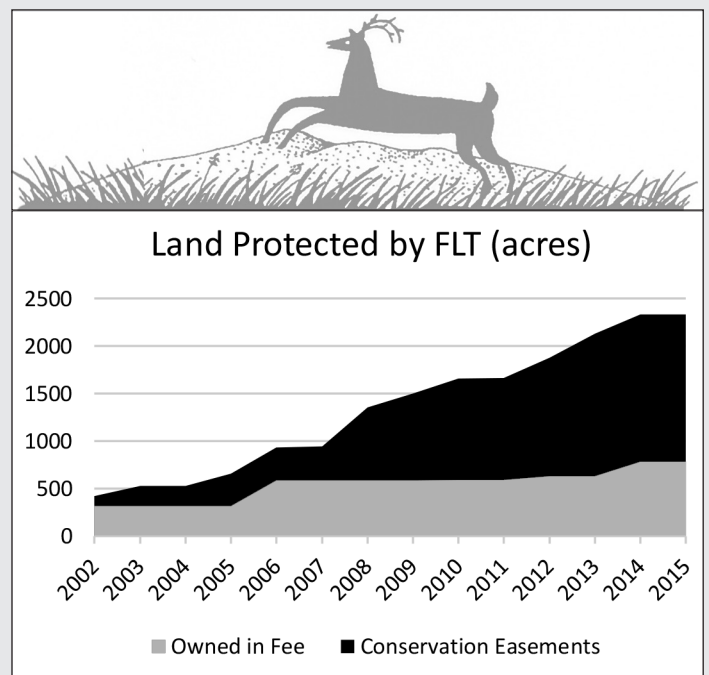
Total Fixed Assets 782,363.53

Total Assets 1,175,321.59

Liabilities 3,500.00

Equity 1,171,821.59

Total Liabilities and Equity 1,175,321.59



Thank you to all our 2015 Sponsors

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Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

Thursday, June 9, 2016, 6:30pm • FLT Annual Meeting

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from the Harris Center for Conservation Education, will present "The True Tales and Times of New Hampshire's Fisher." More information on page 2.

Do you have questions about or ideas for events?

We welcome your input! Please send an email to info@francestownlandtrust.org

Saturday, June 25, 12-4pm • Arts Fest

The fourth annual Francestown Arts Fest is right around the corner!

Get your creative juices flowing and start painting, drawing, potting, sewing, jewelry making, singing, dancing and playing. Set up starts at 10am and the show goes on from 12-4pm at the FIHS Lodge on Main Street. Items may be for sale or just for show. Bring on your creativity, share with your neighbors and help celebrate the good works of our FLT.

To volunteer or for questions, please call Marcy Tripp at 547-2548.



Join our email list to learn about our upcoming events.
Contact us at info@francestownlandtrust.org to be added to this list.