Focus on Walnut Hill

On December 16, 2009 the final closing of the sale of the development rights of this 70 acre Springvale Farm was achieved. This easement was purchased from the Noons as part of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resource’s Farmland Protection Program. Maine’s Department of Agriculture purchased the easement with funding from the Land for Maine’s Future Program (LMF) and the federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP). The purpose of the easement is to forever conserve the agricultural and forestry productivity (including prime and important agricultural soils, agricultural viability, and natural resource values), open space, scenic values, and all other natural resource values of the Protected Property for present and future generations.

The easement has been donated to Three Rivers Land Trust by the Maine Department of Agriculture, and Three Rivers Land Trust will assume all stewardship and enforcement responsibilities for the parties to the easement purchase agreement. As part of the settlement the Noons have made a calculated donation to the trust’s stewardship fund.

The Protected Property consists of all the forested and agricultural lands. The forest is managed as productive woodland. The agricultural lands are used currently as pasture and hayland for sheep. The easement does not permit public access to the Protected Property. It does permit the addition of one farmstand along Sunset Road or Blanchard Road.

Farming is an essential component of the rural quality of life. Farming is vital to providing fresh quality locally raised products to local residents. These days, when developments have taken over much of the region, it is difficult to find enough open farmland in close proximity to be able to farm profitably. The Noons also have an additional 30 acres on two neighbor’s farms in the Deering Farm Belt. They are proud to know that their fields and woods will remain open space forever, to be enjoyed by passers by.

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Connecticut and through Scouting formed a close friendship. Christine and John had met in college, where John had been a member of the fencing team and Christine had been a member of the field hockey team. They admired each other’s passion for the outdoors, especially camping, fishing, and trapping. They spent many weekends together exploring the woods and mountains, learning how to manage blueberries and wildflowers, and bonding over their shared love for nature.

In 1967 an opportunity arose allowing us to purchase land in New England, specifically in Lebanon, New Hampshire, where John had obtained a teaching position at UNH. This move enabled John to help Christine’s friends and family on their farms in the area. John began his teaching career with great enthusiasm, working side by side with his father-in-law, Herbert Haselton. Christine and John worked on the farm on a part-time basis. John began his teaching career by working on the farm and Haselton road, with his brother, John Jr., who looked after the farm when John was away. They worked together on the farm, and John managed to keep the farm running smoothly. The farm was a good place to raise a family, and they decided to make it their permanent home.

Over the recent decades we’ve watched the town of Lebanon grow, develop, and maintain "rural Landscapes"{land of the way} that made it possible and growable, and gainers of some of land developers to repurpose the land primarily to maximize their profit and “urban household market”. For example, during the decade of 1970s Acton’s population grew by 76% and the seniors saw 66% additional growth according to the US Census Bureau. With the growth of population came the need for more sustainable practices and the need to conserve our rural resources. This is the reason why we have decided to donate our development rights to Three Rivers Land Trust. Chris & John Bozak

Three Rivers Land Trust

We’d like to thank:
To McDougal Orchards for donating the Auction. Genet Concrete, Charles Gruber, McDougal Orchards, and Token Equestrian for providing the Auction table. Anna and Virgil Pittsick, Ronald Phillips Prevost, Springfield Hardware for providing the Auction.

Robert Ferguson for legal help with the Salmon Falls Reserve. Dora Spedding for agreeing to monitor the Salmon Falls Reserve.

Ellen Turban for creating the 2010 3RLT Calendar. Shaw’s Hardware, One Earth Naturals, Ridley’s Farm for selling the calendar.

The Land Trust will be adding a trail from the Salmon Falls Reserve to the Prospect Hill Road access to the existing Land Trust property. We have found a small gem. This is a gift to all who care for the land at present and wish to protect it for the future. Tom Cashin

This group of founders and the new directors and the great support of many members we have grown and evolved for ten years to the present. We will be celebrating this benchmark of progress with several events.

Our annual meeting will be held downstairs at the Springvale Library. At this meeting we will review our year, and have an informative presentation on the Longhorn Beetle, elect our directors and refreshments with all who attend.

Over 1600 acres have been preserved. Our achievements are worth noting. We are honored and gratified that we have been able to achieve with your help.

We are humbled by your faith in our ability to conserve open space in the area. We hope that this progress we have been able to achieve with your help continues.

Visiting our site on the web: www.3rlt.org

Notre Dame Institute

Thank you all for your support and we hope to see you at the meeting on February 10, 2010 at the Springvale Library.

Bob Hirtz and Jim Callender, for work and support on the Noon Project. A special thank you to Marcel Polak for leading; Fred Froodyama for supporting; Marcel Polak for supporting; and Ferguson & Johnson for hosting.

Three Rivers Land Trust received a $5,000 grant from the Baker Farmland Protection Specialist, Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources; and the Noon Project.

These individuals were and are actively concerned and appalled at the growing sprawl with its inherent disregard for the fabric of a region and its community and its natural resources. They realized a remedy was needed beyond "papering the landscape in discouragement and disbelief."

Following the early guidance and encouragement of Paul Schumacher of the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission, and Tim Smith from Great Works Regional Land Trust, a small group of original residents convened in early 1999 to meet monthly and to discuss their concerns and how to move up with some solutions. The initial residents were from Acton, Alfred, Lebanon, Sanford/Springvale, and Shapleigh. These individuals were active members involved in land conservation, land use planning as volunteers and professionals. Discussions covered the concept of the landscape environmentally, for wildlife, recreation, habitat, and the working landscape of farms and forests and regionally.

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