

P & Z Annual Review of POCD
Jan. 28, 2017

Hello everyone. I'm HP standing in for our Pres. Bart Jones who is away.

CCT (CCT for short) is your all-volunteer local land trust, established in 1987. That makes this our 30th Anniversary year — which we intend to celebrate with all of you in the Fall — so keep your eyes open for save the date and other announcements.

For those who don't follow such things closely, a land trust is a private, nonprofit membership organization which actively works to conserve land from development by accepting donations of, or purchasing, land and conservation easements which protect land from development. The aim is to work cooperatively with landowners to conserve their land for its natural, scenic, recreational or productive value — and to do so forever.

Our mission says we will specifically manage the protected lands to promote wildlife habitat, forest improvement, water quality, and public recreation. We aim to strengthen the community's connection to nature through trails and preserves, and we will do as much as possible to promote farming in Cornwall.

These objectives coincide almost exactly with those of the POCD.

I want to make of others such as CCC

A look at the Plan shows that CCT is not only connected with the town's priorities but is also expected to be an active participant in achieving the goals in the Natural Resources and Conservation section.

As owners of more than 1,200 acres and stewards of another 650 acres under easement, our board of directors believes we are doing just that.

2016 turned out to be a banner year for CCT — and to brag a little— for Cornwall as a whole!

We completed six large and small transactions

- 4 gifts of land from the Blake, Foote, Furniss and Kling families, and
- 2 large purchases — amounting to 400 acres in all — from the Cooley family and Trinity Church.

We now have 7 trails open to the public 24/7 and are planning more. *See map. — as Rick mentioned —*

2017 also looks promising with 3 purchases under negotiation right now — they are the Cheryl Evans property, the Matland property and Tom & Jan Walker's property. And in addition we are assisting Ed Kenniston to put an agricultural easement on his iconic farm at the bottom of Bunker Hill so that it will remain a farm forever and so that it will protect the wonderful view on entering Cornwall on Route 4 from the east.

Finally, let me stress that CCT is very glad to work with town and state officials — and

the other commissions represented here today — on these and other similar projects. Not only is this cooperation necessary to properly carry out the town plan and protect priority open spaces, but also we could not possibly achieve our goals without the strong support of the selectmen, P & Z Commission, Conservation Commission and others as we seek state and federal funding for our work. Last year our joint efforts brought nearly \$1,350,000 in outside government funds to the town for conservation.

All of this is, we believe, in accord with the Plan's objectives and will help keep Cornwall the way we like it. And as noted earlier, the protection is forever.

Pls. let me know if need to phrase.

*read into
the record
by
Hector Bual'homme*