



MANCHESTER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST  
FOUNDED 1972

## Spring 2018

### Terra Firma

Newsletter of the Manchester Land Conservation Trust | Info: 860-643-1823  
20 Hartford Road, Manchester, CT 06040  
Email: [Info@ManchesterLandTrust.org](mailto:Info@ManchesterLandTrust.org)

Website: [www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org) | Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Manchesterlandtrust](http://www.facebook.com/Manchesterlandtrust)

## ★ Good news! ★ We made it! ★ ★ Farm mortgage paid off! ★

Together we have raised the \$210,000 needed to pay off the mortgage that we took out to purchase the 62-acre farm on Bush Hill Road in Manchester and Glastonbury! We literally could NOT have done it without the generous financial support of our members — all of you! — along with grants, Town of Manchester donations, corporate matching funds, and our tag sales. The final (balloon) payment was due on August 18, 2018, but with our fundraising efforts, we have actually accomplished this massive goal early, paying the final \$18,051.95 check to The Conservation Fund on February 3, 2018. Even though the interest amount was low (just 3.0% per year), it was still worthwhile to pay off early, saving about \$8,000.00 in interest. This was the biggest fundraising effort we have ever undertaken! We believe that this open space land will enhance the community, and offer habitat to wildlife, plants, and trees — land that otherwise might have become a development, never again to offer the natural landscape to this area of Connecticut. Thank you to every donor — hundreds of members and supporters, including 190 individuals, 2 garden clubs, a church, fraternal organizations, and conservationists who read about the mortgage in the newspaper and sent in a check!

Overall farm grants: State of Connecticut, Town of Manchester, Bafflin Foundations, Manchester Road Race Committee, SBM Charitable Foundation, Cruisin' On Main, Manchester Lions Club.

January 2018 hike on the farm trails:  
boundary of Manchester & Glastonbury.



### Upcoming events

Manchester location unless noted otherwise

- **Annual dinner & meeting**, Thursday, May 24, 5:30 p.m., at Manchester Country Club, 350 South Main St. *See invitation on page 3*, which includes info on paying via credit card. **\$28** members, **\$30** non-members.
- **Stickney Hill walk**, Sunday, May 27, 12:00 noon. Meet at eastern end of Pleasant Street (at dead end) in Rockville. Steward Rob Lewis will lead walk. Free.



- **GIANT TAG SALE**, June 1 to 9, 9:00 to 2:00 each day, 330 Bush Hill Rd. *More info page 5.*
- **Risley Park hike**, Sunday, June 3, 1:00 p.m. Free 3.5-mile strenuous hike. Meet in parking lot east of Risley Pond (GPS 366 Lake Street, Vernon).
- **Cheney Railroad: Walk south to north**, Saturday, July 28, 1:00 p.m., meet at 146 Hartford Rd. to hike along the streets and old railroad bed. Free 2.5 mile moderate walk.
- **Hike the farm trails**, Saturday, October 27, 1:00 p.m. Meet at 330 Bush Hill Rd. for a free 2.5-mile hike to explore the 62-acre farm.

*More on the Events page of*  
[manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org)



Follow us on  
Facebook

Keep up to date on events via our  
Facebook page.



# Saluting our volunteers

An amazing part of the Land Trust: the volunteers! They have built trails, cleared downed trees, applied for and received grants to improve drainage on trails and parking areas. Volunteers have mowed grass, shoveled snow, cleared invasive species off apple trees, and led hikes. But it's not all outdoor work! Volunteers manage tag sales, pay bills, file IRS forms, create policies, raise funds, and work on projects to ensure the perpetuity of the Land Trust and its open-space properties. To volunteer, phone Terry Parla, 860-643-1823 or email [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org).



Pictured above: tag sale volunteers Janet and Deb organize items at the former Cider Barn on our farm property.

Pictured below: trail work, Risley Park, Vernon — 155 acres, our largest property. Donated wood chips improved drainage here, near parking lot.



Our volunteers are at work nearly every day at the farm: mowing, moving debris (farmers are known for leaving old vehicles, etc., out “on the back 40”), removing invasive plants, and creating a parking lot, farm road, and trails around the property! Combined with the abutting 13-acre Manning-Ferris property, donated in 1993, our volunteers have a 75-acre section of Manchester / Glastonbury to maintain!

Stewardship Chair Colin McNamara organized a Blitz Cleanup Day on October 22, 2017, working to remove storm-downed trees at our Marsh Pond, Stickney Hill, & Cheney railroad properties.

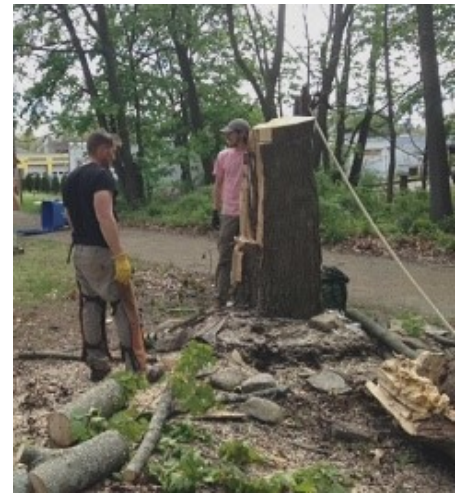


Pictured above, volunteer Rob Bard at Marsh Pond, Porter Street, on Blitz Cleanup Day.

When hikers at Risley pause in their rambles to relax on our new Heads-Up Hartford bench, they can thank the volunteers who somehow managed to transport this heavy bench to a lovely vista overlooking a small double-waterfall. The bench is located near the spillway at the west side of Risley Pond.



Pictured below, storm-damaged tree removed by volunteers at our Cheney railroad property, May 2017.



Pictured below, birdhouse installed at Risley Park by volunteer Gary Nelson, Boy Scout Troop 25, Manchester, Eagle Scout.







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# You are invited...

## Annual Meeting and Dinner ❖ Thursday, May 24

At the Manchester Country Club, 305 S Main Street, Manchester, CT 06040; plenty of parking, wheelchair accessible. \$28.00 members; \$30 non-members.

**5:30 p.m.:** Social time, cash bar. **6:00 p.m.:** Buffet dinner. **7:15 p.m.:** Business meeting, including annual reports and election of board members. **7:30 p.m.:** Presentation by Mark Milewski, Scoutmaster of Troop 25, Manchester.

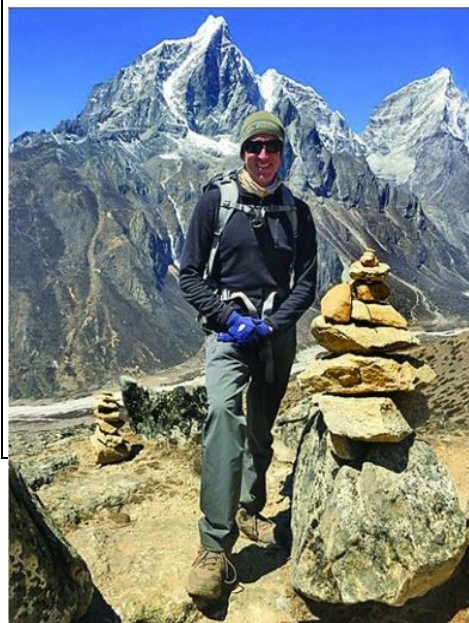
*Menu:* Featuring vegetarian, fish, and beef entrées, with salad, vegetables, rolls, dessert.

*Program:* Mount Everest adventure & inspiration

Illustrated talk by Mark Milewski, who climbed Mt. Everest in 2016. Mark commented on his Everest expedition: “Approaching the summit was a pretty profound moment.” He stood on top of the 29,035-foot mountain for about 20 minutes with some other climbers. “Everything is below you. I swear I could see the curvature of the earth” he added. “I extend heartfelt gratitude to everyone who followed along on my blog, supported, encouraged, prayed, and sent their good vibes to me on this turbulent but ultimately triumphant journey.” Mark previously climbed Mount Elbrus, Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount McKinley, and Mount Aconcagua. Mark is an assistant professor of Business Administration at Tunxis Community College.

*It’s OK to come for the meeting and/or program if you can’t attend the dinner.*

Mark Milewski



**Name of each guest. Please print clearly.** Please mail with check to **172 East Center St., Manchester, CT 06040**, or hand deliver any weekday, 9 to 5. Please write **DINNER** on the envelope. Or use the Join/Us page online and pay via credit card. [www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org) Deadline **Monday, May 21.**


Your telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



News from . . .



Malcolm Barlow  
*Land Trust President*

**Board of  
Directors 2017-8**

Att’y Malcolm Barlow

*President*

860-646-4081

Helen Robbins

*Vice President*

Dermot Jones

*Treasurer*

William Doak

*Recording Sec’y*

Dick Borden

Ginger Jackson

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Theresa Parla

*Membership Chair*

860-643-1823

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• • • •

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Jack Bowden

*Webmaster, newsletter*

*editor* Susan Barlow

*Corresponding Sec’y*

Elaine Law

[www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org)



MANCHESTER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST  
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Dear Land Trust Members and Friends:

**Major goal reached**

A hearty THANK YOU to the donors who paid off the mortgage on the 62-acre farm at Bush Hill Road. This unprecedented groundswell of generosity shows a serious commitment to protecting the environment and to providing habitat for flora and fauna. The \$210,000.00 mortgage, from The Conservation Fund, allowed us to purchase the farm in August 2015 — it bridged the gap between the State of Connecticut matching grant and all our Trust’s resources. Interest would have been upwards of \$19,000.00 if we hadn’t paid off the loan earlier. We saved about \$8,000 in interest.

In addition to all the individual donations, the generous payments from the Town of Manchester, and the grants, I want to thank former Board member Jon Mercier for his work to obtain the mortgage, and also his serious financial commitment to the project. Dick Borden, Jack Bowden, Susan Barlow, and former Board member Bob Melusky worked on the fundraising campaign. Every Board member donated to the cause.

Now that the farm trails have been established, parking area built, and drainage problems resolved, the farm has become a popular location for runners, hikers, dog-walkers, and bird-watchers. If you have not seen the improvements to the farm property, please plan to come and view the terrific work of our volunteers, particularly Brad Palmer, Colin McNamara, Doug MacGillvary, Gerry Botti, John Hovey, and Roger Chadwick. For financial support for the trails, signage, and a pavilion, we thank the Manchester Road Race Committee, Cruisin’ on Main, SBM Charitable Foundation, and Fuss & O’Neill.

The farm is only one of our popular locations — many visitors and hikers roam the open spaces at Risley Park, Salter’s Pond, Stickney Hill, Highland Park, and the Cheney rail trail. Come out for one of our guided hikes, or explore on your own. We have 457 acres open to the public.

**Supporting the Land Trust forever: Wills, trusts, life insurance, IRAs, 401ks, annuities, charitable gift annuities, and land**

There are many ways that members and friends can make gifts to the Land Trust, including using estate plans and Required Minimum Distributions RMDs (at age 70-1/2) from an IRA. Gifts should be designated to: Manchester Land Conservation Trust, Inc., 20 Hartford Road, Manchester, Connecticut 06040, federal EIN 23-7212665. The Trust has been an IRS-recognized charitable entity since 1972, the year we were founded. Surveys of charitable donors indicate that “tax avoidance” is a minor reason for gifts. Most donors have a heart-felt desire to make a long-lasting difference in the world. The Land Trust believes that every effort we make, no matter how modest, will benefit the world in perpetuity — preserving open spaces with the result that our communities breathe better air, have purer water, and have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. A key aspect of the Trust’s work is that it has been done since 1972 entirely by volunteers. Financial gifts support our administrative costs: rent for our office, insurance, equipment for managing the preserves, and memberships in state and national land trust organizations.

If you have questions about making a gift to the Land Trust, you can contact a member of the board. Please check to see if your employer matches gifts! Donors can seek guidance from their attorneys, accountants, and financial advisors. Donors of open space land to the Trust are special people. And their gifts of land can be testaments to the donors in perpetuity.

Malcolm Barlow, President | [MBarlow@MalcolmBarlow.com](mailto:MBarlow@MalcolmBarlow.com) | 860-646-4081



## "Doug Smith Island"

**On Friday, June 1 at 10:45 a.m.** Doug Smith (1928-2017) will be honored for his conservation work with the naming of an island in the Hockanum River. All are welcome to this ceremony. Meet at the



northeast corner of the parking lot at Kohl's Department store, 155 Tolland Turnpike, Manchester. Doug was a founding member and first president of the Land Trust, inspiration to the Hockanum River Linear Park Committee, member and past chairman of the Conservation Commission. He took an interest in the history of the enterprises, houses, farms, and people along the Hockanum River. Doug was known for his passionate work to preserve nature and to promote enjoyment of the outdoors, working with Town and State officials, volunteers, the Art Association, and other groups, always looking for volunteers to continue the work of providing great trails for the public to enjoy.

**"The effective conservationist: dedicated, brilliant, outraged, selfless, modest, stubborn, and kind."**

—Quoted in the April 2018 newsletter of the CT Botanical Society

## Membership

Our members support us in taking on our many conservation projects! Thank you! Consider giving a membership to a friend. And consider an upgrade to life membership (\$500). Call membership chair Terry Parla 860-643-1823, or renew online with a credit card on the *Join / Donate* page on our website [www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org), where you can also give a gift membership or donation to honor a friend or relative.

**Our current membership:** 309 memberships, of whom 167 are life members (many members are couples, so this represents about 400 members).

Special thanks to Jack Bowden for creation and management of our membership database.

*Terry*, April 2018

*Membership year:*  
*Oct. 1 to Sept. 30*

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Annual:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate:	\$200
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustaining:	\$100
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual:	\$25
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family:	\$50

## Tag sale shoppers needed!

Starting June 1, come shop the mountains of books, household items, tools, furniture, artwork, sports and garden equipment, curiosities, toys, music CDs, etc. at 330 Bush Hill Rd., Manchester.

Manchester Land Conservation Trust – protecting open space land in the Manchester region.



**GIANT WEEK-LONG**

# Tag Sale

**Fri., June 1 to**  
**Sat., June 9, 2018**

**9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day.**  
At the Land Trust's cider barn  
330 Bush Hill Rd., Manchester 06040  
**FREE NIKE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 9 AT 1:00 P.M. – COME SHOP AT 12:30!**

Mountains of items! Books, toys, tools, artwork, curiosities, furniture, machinery, household and sports items, glassware, & items both useful and decorative.

❖❖❖ **Accepting donations** ❖❖❖

On Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from May 8 to May 29 (except Memorial Day) from 11 to 2 each day; there is a covered bin to the right of the barn (open door, place items inside) or phone for other drop-off times: Terry at 860-643-1823. Accepting good, saleable items. No clothes, no computers, no TVs, please.

Tag sale for the benefit of the Manchester Land Conservation Trust, protecting the natural landscape in the Manchester region, including farmland, an urban rail trail, ponds, forest, wetlands. More at [www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org)

Accepting donations Mon., Tues., Fri., & Sat. from May 8 to May 29 (not Memorial Day) from 11 to 2 each day; or use covered bin to right of barn (open door, place items inside). Details and a printable poster on *Events* page of our website [www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org). Put a poster in your car window!

**Questions? Call Terry 860-643-1823.**





## Our properties

Founded in 1972, the Land Trust sought to preserve land in Manchester. Its first acquisition — about one-tenth of an acre on Lakewood Circle — was donated by the Gould family in 1974. In 1975, the Marsh family donated the 0.99-acre pond on Porter St. near their house. Larger properties followed: Salter’s Pond, Risley Park, etc. We now

Manchester	198.80
Vernon	82.67
Bolton	91.00
East Hartford	45.00
Glastonbury	5.00
Andover	35.25
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>457.72</b>

own 457 acres in six towns! New properties in 2017: • Donation by Mike Baldwin of 1.64 acres at Round Hill Road, Manchester, and • by Reservoir Heights Association of 2.44 acres at Amy Drive, Vernon, that abuts our Lydall Woods property. Members can be proud of the work they have done over the last 46 years, including the benefits to air and water quality from maintaining open spaces! For a full listing, visit the *Properties* page of [www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org).

## Introducing new members of our board

**Rob Lewis**, of Vernon, joined the Land Trust Board of Directors in 2017.



He is the steward of our 15.9-acre Stickney Hill property in Rockville, and has worked with the Trust’s stewardship committee to create trails on the property. Come

meet Rob at our next ramble there: Sunday, May 27 at 12:00 noon. Rob will lead the hike and point out items of historic and biological interest.

**Ginger Jackson**, of Manchester, is originally from Arkansas. She became chair of the Land Trust’s new Accreditation Committee in 2017, and joined the Board in 2018. She is an attorney with an interest in land conservation, and is now in graduate school, nearing completion of an M.S. in Environmental Policy and Management. Ginger was a law clerk for the Buffalo River



Foundation, a land trust in Arkansas. The process of attaining national accreditation for our Land Trust is arduous, establishing policies for document retention, property management, and “best practices” to strengthen our land trust and make us a better organization. Ginger says, “I’m excited about the opportunity to serve on the Board and preserve open spaces.”

**Dermot Jones**, of Vernon, worked with the Trust in 2017 to acquire the Reservoir Heights property in Vernon; he joined the Board in 2017. Dermot has worked for the Department of Public Health for 35 years, first as a Senior Chemist at the State Public Health Laboratory responsible for testing environmental samples and then as a



Regulator ensuring that private environmental laboratories are properly testing drinking water, soils, and wastewater samples. He has a longstanding interest in the environment. He is pictured at a Cheney rail trail hike in March 2018.

**Janet Tunyina**, lives in Manchester. She was born and raised in Western Uganda, and is an operating room RN at Hartford Hospital. She and her family are often at the Trust’s Salter’s Pond property, where they enjoy the loop trail and the interesting wildlife. Janet joined the Board in 2018.



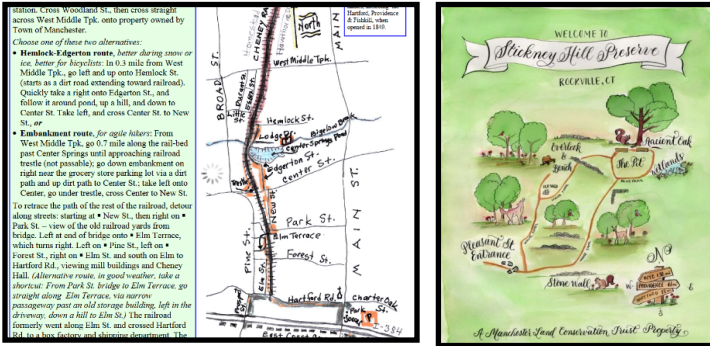
**Kwasi Ntem-Mensah**, of Manchester and his wife Gertrude have three children, Francis 11, Vida 10, and Portia 7. Kwasi works for ECHN-Family Development Center as family development educator, group facilitator and fatherhood consultant. He volunteers with the Manchester Public schools on a couple of committees and as a Goodwill Ambassador. He likes to write, and loves the outdoors. He joined the Board in 2018.





## Trail maps

Check out the *Maps & Flyers* section on the home page of our website [www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org) for self-guiding maps: Cheney Railroad trail, Manchester; Stickney Hill, Rockville; Bush Hill Farm trails, Manchester & Glastonbury; and Mary Jane Williams Park in East Hartford. Enjoy a walk on your own or bring a friend or a dog!



Manchester & Glastonbury; and Mary Jane Williams Park in East Hartford. Enjoy a walk on your own or bring a friend or a dog!

## Earth Day hike 2018

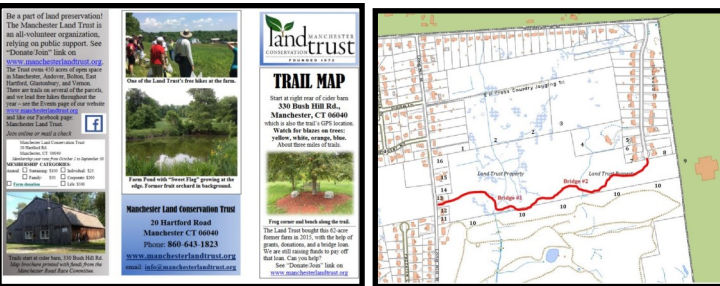


About 50 people came out for an April 22 history hike at Case Mountain. We welcomed Dr. Fred Spaulding, a prime mover on the effort to save Case Mountain in the early 1970s. Fred, a founding member of the Land Trust, also served as Chair of the Conservation Commission. *Photos by member Normand Charlette.*



## Cheney railroad walks

One of our most popular hikes! Check website for upcoming forays along this historic path.



## Volunteer Jerry Botti

Pictured here in front of the cider barn at 330 Bush Hill Road, Manchester, is Jerry Botti, neighbor of our Bush Hill Farm property. He works with farm steward Brad Palmer on mowing and farm maintenance. Members of Jerry's family farmed here from about 1910 until the late 1990s. There were apple and pear orchards, some of which are still producing fruit.



## Special hike for home-school children

These youngsters enjoyed a trip in September 2017 to the forest to enjoy the outdoors and learn a bit about geology, history, and trail lore — how to follow the blazes on trees to avoid getting lost, and how to spot the pipsisewa. Children are always welcome on our hikes and activities!





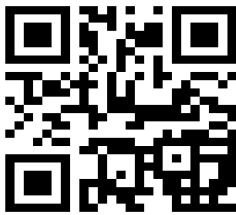
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Manchester Land Conservation Trust Inc.  
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Manchester, CT 06040

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Phone: 860-643-1823  
Email: [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org)  
Website: [www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org)  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Scan this QR code with your smart  
phone to go to our website.

**Property helpers sought** — Can you take charge of some snow-shoveling, lawn-mowing, or invasive-plant removal? Call Terry Parla 860-643-1823 and she will link you up with a property and a steward.

**Property & donations** — The Manchester Land Conservation Trust owns 457 acres of land in Manchester, Andover, Bolton, East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Vernon. See our website *Properties* page for details. Pictured at right, the one-acre Case Parklet in Manchester — a popular trailhead to the Case Mountain hiking trails and also a place to picnic and sit and chat on one of our benches. Enjoy Case Pond, old stone walls, rocky outcrops, Mountain Laurel, and a host of natural flora and fauna. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for upcoming hikes on this and on our other properties.

**Protecting the environment** — The Trust works to protect water resources, habitat, and animal, bird, and plant life in the Trust's natural surroundings. On parcels of sufficient size, the Trust supports passive recreation: hiking, biking, snowshoeing, fishing, bird watching, and other outdoor activities. It's YOU, our members and supporters, who make this happen. Donate via the Join/Donate link on our website [www.manchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.manchesterlandtrust.org). Interested in donating land? Contact the Trust's President, Malcolm F. Barlow at 860-646-4081, or Director Terry Parla at 860-643-1823. We welcome the opportunity to provide information to potential donors about the benefits of giving land to the Trust.

**Board meetings** — The Board of Directors meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of January, February, March, April, June, September, October, and November at our rented office at 20 Hartford Road, Manchester. These are business meetings in which we make decisions and assign tasks. The public is always welcome. Check the website or phone Terry Parla 860-643-1823 to confirm the meeting time.

