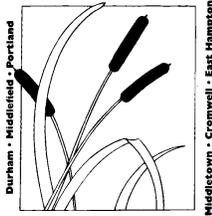


MIDDLESEX



LAND TRUST

The MIDDLESEX LANDSCAPE

Serving the towns of Durham, Middlefield, Middletown,
Cromwell, Portland and East Hampton

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Middlesex Land Trust Phone No.
(leave a message)
(860) 343-7537

Web Site:
<http://nw3.nai.net/~mrpampo/mlt.htm>

Sellew Open Space Initiative in East Hampton.

The Middlesex Land Trust has embarked upon its third land purchase since its inception, and the largest parcel for us to pursue on our own! (for Durham's Mica Ledges we partnered with the Madison Land Trust) We have been successful securing a State of Connecticut Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant, which was announced on August 8, 2000. This grant for up to \$29,983, covers half of the \$60,000 purchase price. As of the end of October, half way through our six month fund raising period, we are pleased to announce that we have raised over \$15,000 through the generous support of many individuals, corporations, and local service organizations. We now need to finish the job by raising an additional \$15,000 and we need your help. Please give as generously as you can, and pass this newsletter to your neighbors in East Hampton or friends who like to hike and bike in the area. While there are no shortage of good causes in this state to donate your hard earned dollars to, the problem with open space purchases, is that you usually only get one chance. Lets not let this chance slip past us! Don't forget to include your company's matching gift form.

The Sellew parcel is a 39.4 acre site that is adjacent to the Air Line State Park Trail. This section of a former railroad bed that is owned by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, has been converted to a linear park recreation trail in partnership with the towns of East Hampton, Colchester and Hebron. What most people who walk portions of this trail may not realize, is that most of the undeveloped land they see as they walk on this trail, is not protected from future development. In the towns of Colchester and Hebron, significant portions of the trail are surrounded by Salmon River State Forest or other publicly protected areas, only a short section of the trail in East Hampton abutts the Salmon River State Forest, and the rest is private land. The Sellew parcel, which is shaped a little like a triangle, with its longest side adjacent to the trail, would protect about one half mile of greenspace along the trail. The parcel boundaries starts on your right, about three quarters of a mile in from the start of the trail at the Cranberry Bog off of Smith Street. It continues until the start of the Rapallo Viaduct. It reaches from the Air Line Trail up to Dogwood

Drive, and an old logging road winds through the property connecting the two.

Access to this property is good with parking available in the turn around on Dogwood Drive, and from the Air Line Trail with parking at the Cranberry Bog in East Hampton or parking in Colchester on Bull Hill Rd. near the Lyman Viaduct. The parcel is wooded, with both rolling and very steep terrain. It will offer hikers a chance to add a little hilly terrain to their otherwise flat stroll on the old railroad grade. Bits of barbwire in trees and old fence posts bely that despite the hardwood forest, at one time, like much of New England, this was pasture. From Dogwood Drive, the land drops a total of 120 feet in elevation to the railroad grade. Following heavy rains, a series of beautiful waterfalls form, dropping over the edge of a rock cut above the railroad grade and spilling into the drainage beside the railroad trail. The property also supports a vernal pool and some small wetlands.

For those of you seeking more information on the Air Line Trail, a brochure has been printed up and is available from the Parks and Recreation Departments of the Towns of East Hampton, Colchester, and Hebron.

The *Chairman's Corner*

Your land trust held its annual meeting on May 5, 2000 which featured guest speaker Nick Bellantoni, State Archeologist, speaking on the topic of old bones and open space. Actually, Nick talked about the importance of preserving sensitive historical and cultural sites and the abilities of an archaeologist to understand the lives and culture of prior inhabitants based on the pieces and types of remains they leave behind. And of course, Nick had a number of anecdotes and stories to share that ran from funny, to amusing, to thought provoking.

The annual meeting was also the time when the board and members get to visit and reflect on accomplishments during the past year and goals for the future.

1999-2000 was another active one for the Middlesex Land Trust. Some of our accomplishments include:

- Receipt of two properties in East Hampton totaling 7.4 acres.
- Purchase of a one acre property in Portland that abuts the Taylor Brook preserve.
- Receipt of conservation easement of 30 acres in Middletown in the Highland Pond area.
- Receipt of a Northeast Utilities Foundation Grant to help us with our operations.
- Production of our Trail Guide which was produced with our 1998 Rockfall Grant.
- Dedication of the King preserve.
- Addition of a phone number and a web site.
- Recognition of those individuals that have donated land to the Middlesex Land Trust through the awarding of 26 Honorary Memberships.
- Receipt of our first gift of appreciated stock and the creation of an endowment account for future land acquisition and stewardship needs.

We could not achieve these results without the support of our members and we thank you for your continued interest and concern.

This summer and fall we have been busy with the Sellow Open Space Initiative, which you can read more about in this newsletter, and which marks our first large parcel purchase on our own. Our success fundraising to support this purchase will set the stage for future preservation purchases by the Middlesex Land Trust.

Over the last three years the State of Connecticut has made literally millions of dollars available to cities, towns, land trusts and other organizations to help protect and preserve open space. The Middlesex Land Trust submitted an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant application to the DEP on April 28, 2000 to aid in the purchase of 39.4 acres in East Hampton for \$60,000. The property is located at the end of Dogwood Drive within a half-mile of the town center. Logging trails connect the parcel with the Airline Railroad rails to trails project that has been supported by the Town of East Hampton and DOT.

On August 8, 2000 we received the grant, in an amount not to exceed \$29,983, contingent upon our raising the additional \$30,000 needed to purchase the property within four months. I accepted the award on behalf of the land trust, flanked by State Representative Gail Hamm, State Senator Eileen Daly, DEP Commissioner Arthur Rocque and Lieutenant Governor Jodi Rell.

To date, we have received over \$18,000 in donations and pledges. We will complete the purchase in January, and our goal is to have the remaining \$12,000 raised by the end of December. Please help us preserve this beautiful parcel and protect this important greenway.

As always, thank you for your generous support.

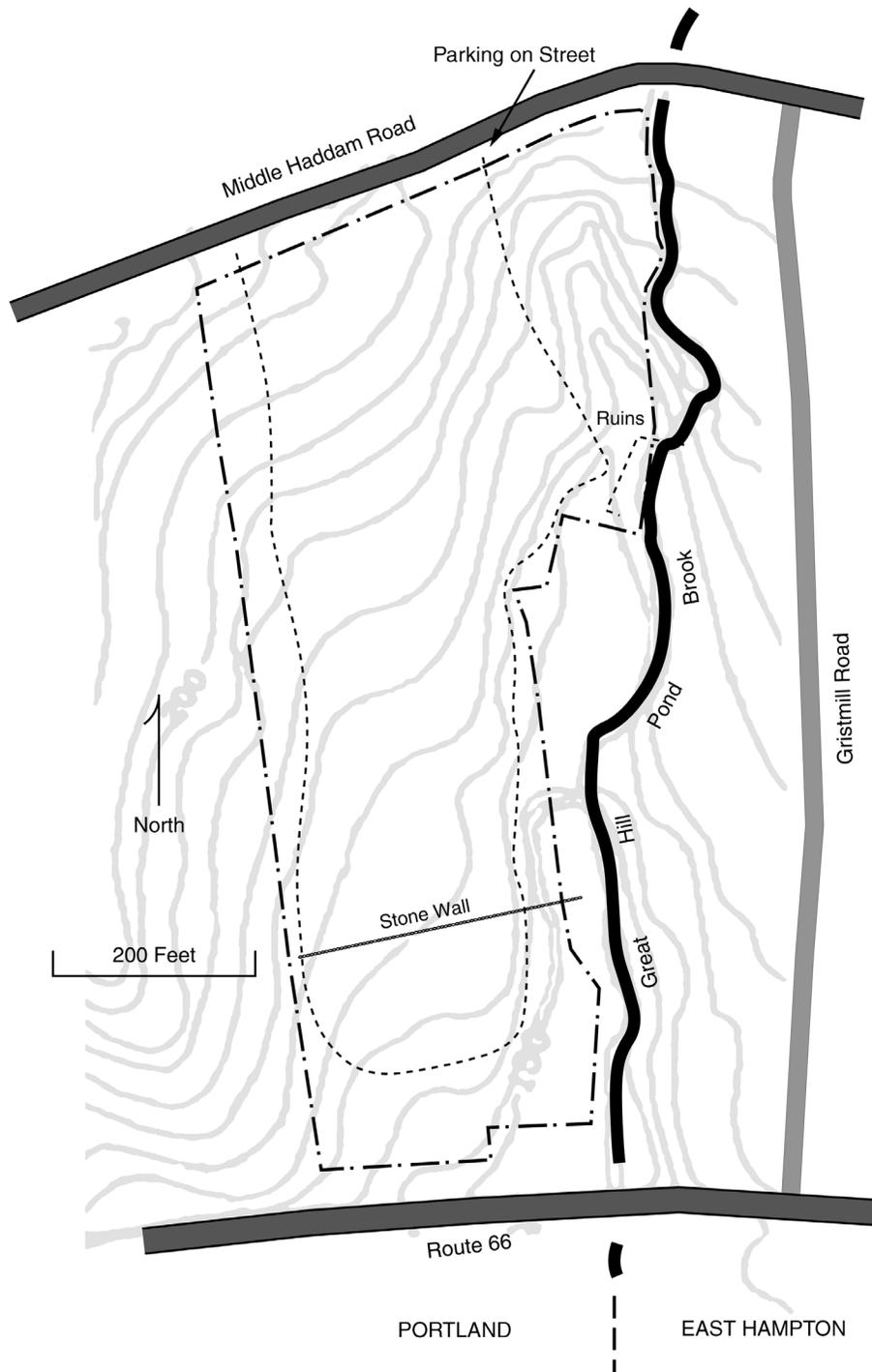
Alan

Taylor Brook Preserve (Portland)

6.23 acres donated by Prudence (Taylor) & TJ Palmer in 1993, expanded with a one acre purchase in 1999.

In the 1800's this area was open pasture, with small industrial sites built up along the brook. Near the brook, one of the hand laid, stone foundation walls is still in good shape. Much of this preserve is second growth forest. Although overgrown on the north side near the road, the woodlands open up towards the lower end, and some impressively sized trees grow in the northeast corner. This is a good place for a short, quiet walk or bird watching. Deer and wild turkeys are also frequent visitors on this preserve.

Directions: From Portland, take Route 66 east. At the junction of Route 66 and Route 151 in Cobalt, take a left onto Depot Hill Rd. heading north. Take the first left onto Middle Haddam Rd. Just after passing Gristmill Road, the road crosses a brook. The preserve is immediately to your left. Park off of the road on the left.



something we tend to take for granted.
(continued on next page)



**The Middlesex Land Trust
Membership Application**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

- This is an address change
- Annual Membership \$10
- Sustaining Membership \$35
- Patron Membership \$500
- Life Membership \$1000
- I would like to learn more about donating land or conservation easements.
- I would like to donate time.
- Mica Ledges Project \$ _____
- Sellew Project \$ _____

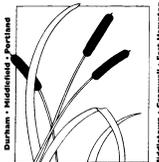
Please make checks payable to:
The Middlesex Land Trust, Inc., and mail to
27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457
Dues & Contributions are Tax Deductible

Don't forget your employers matching gift form!

A Guide to The MLT Preserves was completed and printed. Members received a copy in the mail this summer. A very big thanks to board member Tom Wells who did 95% of the work on this project, and to the Rockfall Foundation who covered the printing and the the East Hampton Rotary Club which gave a donation to cover the mailing.

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