

## Lincoln Land Trust Annual Report 2006

2006 was another active year for the Lincoln Land Trust. Some of the highlights are as follows: In January the land trust began discussions about creating a professional video recording of key sites in the town that could be identified as potential open space acquisition sites. In March the land trust attended the 2006 Land and Water Conservation Summit in South Kingstown. This annual conference provides land and water conservation workshops and networking opportunities. Also in March one of our members helped run the Clean Water Festival, a weekend long symposium for middle and high school students that highlights the importance of clean water in our watershed.

April is Earth Day month and of course all of our members were out there at numerous clean-ups helping to beautify our wonderful town. We also began work on recording sites for our video. In April we also announced the first ever land trust photo contest, called Lincoln's open space: Explore it! Designed to get Lincoln residents out and exploring open space. Winners to be announced in January 2007.

May saw land trust members attending an eight week tree steward class that focused on tree care and maintenance. At the end of the class becoming certified tree stewards.

June was a busy month that saw the Lincoln Land Trust as one of the key sponsoring organizations of an event called Bioblitz 2006. Bioblitz is an ecological monitoring and inventory of a selected area of land to count the number of identifiable species that live in that area. Although the main sponsoring organization, the Rhode Island Natural History Survey, looked at and visited several potential sites in Lincoln, because of size and facilities a site in Cumberland was chosen.

Throughout the spring and summer the land trust monitored and closely followed issues concerning Camp Meehan and Lepore farm. We also had the opportunity to use our open space point ranking system to rate three different areas in the town. They were: Camp Meehan, Lepore Farm and the Cobble Hill Rd. area.

At our October meeting the four candidates for town administrator came and explained their views and thought on the importance of open space. Filming for the video was wrapping up, with an eye towards completion by the end of the year. December, our land trust video was completed and premiered at the Festival of Lights celebration. Those that saw it, enjoyed it. It was created to show people some of the more sizeable parcels of land that are still privately owned and that if they are not protected could turn into huge housing developments.

Throughout the year land trust members also discussed and had key input in issues such as: the new zoning ordinances, potential land developments in Manville, Saylesville, a construction debris processing facility next to the Blackstone River, fish ladders, Manton Pond dam, DEM open space grants, wetlands, the re-authorization of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River national Heritage Corridor, Greenway Challenge, and open space recommendations.