

Princeton Land Trust

P. O. Box 271 Princeton MA 01541

November 2015



**Annual Meeting will be on
November 17, 7:30 pm at the
Wachusett Mountain Ski Area**

**We invite you to *Public Walks*
scheduled every *Saturday* in
November and December, 10 - 11 a. m. at
110 Hubbardston Road**

The Fieldstone Farm project has been the major undertaking of the Princeton Land Trust in 2015. In June the Land Trust entered into a partnership with the Massachusetts Audubon Society to purchase and conserve the nearly 300 acre farm. The Town of Princeton has applied for a state grant that will support funding of the project. If this grant is successful the Town will own a portion of the farm.

A Fall Update on the project is included in this mailing. We invite you to the Public Walks that are scheduled in November and our Annual Meeting on November 17 to learn more about this project.

We have included a Pledge Form for the Fieldstone Farm project in this mailing. We are looking for pledges for funding that may be spread out over a three year period, 2016 to 2018.

In June, 2015, we rolled out our new web-site. A post card announcing the site and the Fieldstone Farm Project were mailed to all Princeton addresses at that time. We hope you find the new site informative and useful. The web-site is: princetonlandtrust.us

You may contact us any time via the web-site or by email at:
Information@PrincetonLandTrust.US

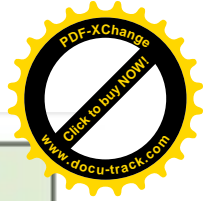
Trustees

Thomas Sullivan, President
Charlie Cary, Co-Secretary
Bob Paulson, Co-Secretary
Ellen O'Brien, Treasurer
Wells Dow
Nathaniel Gove
Brian Keevan
Joseph Lotuff
John Mirick
Bobbye Samdahl
Paul Schlaikjer
Robert Warren

Wells Dow will be nominated to serve another term at Trustee at the Annual Meeting. Wells is a founding Trustee and has served since PLT was founded in 1990. Wells is often seen mowing fields on the McIlroy and Bullock PLT properties on Bullock Lane. Thank you Wells for your continuing service!

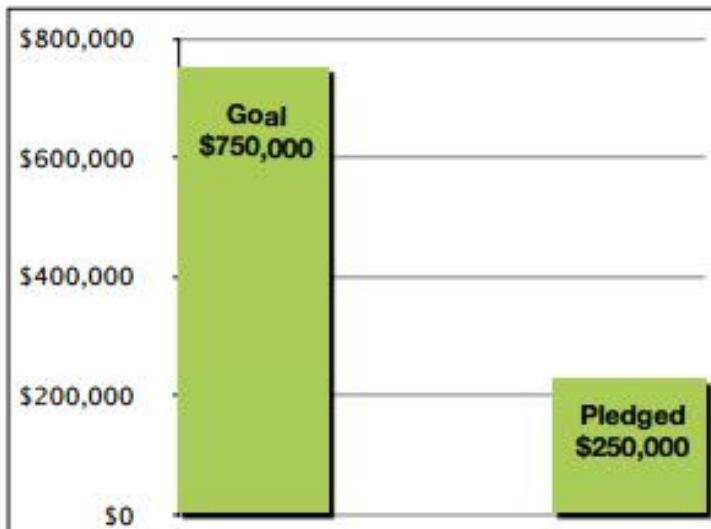
Gift of Land to PLT

The Princeton Land Trust received a gift of land from Glenis B. Eden-Kilgour in May 2015. The land is located near Glenis' home and farm at 90 Hobbs Road. The 11.4 acre parcel is comprised of open fields and forested areas and is subject to a conservation restriction held by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply. The gift fulfills Glenis' plan to conserve open space associated with her farm. A much larger parcel of 44 acres was sold to the Division of Water Supply some time ago.



Private Fundraising for Fieldstone Farm

Two non-profit conservation organizations, Mass Audubon and Princeton Land Trust, have committed to raising a significant portion of the purchase price for Fieldstone Farm from individuals, local and regional foundations, and grant-making institutions. Mass Audubon staff, Princeton Land Trust trustees, and volunteers from both organizations have begun laying the groundwork, planning the campaign, and seeking commitments.



Our goal is to raise a total of \$750,000 from private sources.

We currently have \$225,000 in pledges toward that goal. The Princeton Land Trust itself has committed \$25,000 and every member of the Board of Trustees has agreed to make an individual financial contribution to the campaign.

Protecting Fieldstone Farm will assure that it remains a prominent feature in the town's landscape and supports the long established community goals of allowing the land to continue to be farmed, providing wildlife habitats and corridors, and supplying water to the cities of Worcester and Boston.



Two additional trustee nominations

Wally Whitney and Tom Sullivan will also be nominated to serve another term as PLT Trustees. Wally and Tom have been Trustees since 2005. Thank you Wally and Tom for your continuing service!

Monitoring of Conservation Easements

The Princeton Land Trust holds Conservation Easements on 14 properties in Town totaling about 290 acres. PLT Trustees and volunteers monitor compliance with terms of each easement. We monitor about 1/3 of the properties each year. Trustee Brian Keevan reports the following from monitoring in 2015: **Yaglou/Day, 2.3 acres**, Merriam and Mountain Roads. This was our first effort to document boundaries and conditions on this CR. No monuments were set to mark the division line at the time of the CR deed, so I relied on GIS and GPS to flag the approximate boundary line. Had a nice time with Jenny Hilton walking the site, but suffered a few punctures from the ubiquitous multiflora rose. **Greene, 17 acres**, Goodnow Road. This CR was well documented in 2006 by Paul S., so this was a chance for me to get to know the land. It was a drizzly day, so I did the walk myself, but was welcomed in for coffee by Larry and Marcia afterwards and we had a nice talk ranging from bears in the back yard to the history of the pond. **Poor/Charrette, 2.7 acres**, Sterling Road. Another first time monitoring walk, although PLT has been maintaining the field for some time.

Princeton Land Trust Signs and Trails

PLT placed our first sign highlighting one of our most used properties. The Peabody/Metcalf and Poor properties on Sterling Road host nearly a mile of trails. There is a small parking area for those wishing to access the trails. Additional signs will be placed on other properties with trails. Trails are open to all for non-motorized recreational activities. This property features beautiful stone walls and access to the pond on adjacent DCR Water Supply land.