

HARTLAND LAND TRUST

Board of Selectmen
Town of Hartland
22 South Road
East Hartland, CT 06027

Feb. 1, 2007

Dear Selectmen,

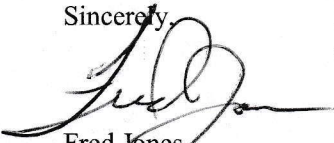
I am writing this letter to your board on behalf of the newly formed Hartland Land Trust. As you may know, the Land Trust grew into existence as a result of the Conservation and Development (10 year plan) Ad Hoc Committee's town wide survey. Our mission is to preserve and protect Hartland's diverse natural resources.

Our land trust has extensively examined the methods and mechanisms by which neighboring towns preserve and conserve their lands. Most of these towns have adopted a "proactive" approach in response to their threatened landscapes (at the hands of urban sprawl) by developing open space plans, open space preservation commissions, and conservative commissions. In nearly every town examined, the first and primary agency created was a conservation commission. Whereas our land trust is a private volunteer, non-profit organization, a conservation commission is the governmental agency with similar goals and objectives.

The directors of the Hartland Land Trust unanimously recommend to the Board of Selectman that they establish a Conservation Commission for the development, conservation, supervision and regulation of Hartland's natural resources. The conservation commission in many respects can operate in ways where a land trust may be limited or even prohibited. For example, a conservation commission may get direct assistance from the state for planning and regulating land. The commission may also receive gifts in the name of the town for its conservation activities. Furthermore, a Conservation Commission would work cooperatively with the Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands Commissions perhaps alleviating some of their burden. Stewarding town held open space for passive recreational purposes, creating a natural resource inventory, creating an "open space" plan, and procuring funds from the state and federal government are some of the conservation commission's tasks.

In closing, the possibility that the complexion of Hartland's pristine landscape may incur a drastic change is very real. The majority of our residents want to maintain Hartland's natural beauty. In keeping with this, the Hartland Land Trust endeavors to preserve the rural character of our town. The establishment of a conservation commission would bode well in helping all of us to achieve this common goal.

Sincerely,



Fred Jones
President, Hartland Land Trust