

February 8, 2011
President's Report

Changes in our landscape can happen gradually or alarmingly fast depending on the demand for new housing in the area. Charlton experienced a lull in construction over the past few years due to the economy, but a more hopeful outlook resulted in an uptick in development . CHPT continues to work closely with individual property owners , developers, and the Planning Board on existing and new projects. We remain actively committed to preserving open space in Charlton.

CHPT's Community Yard Sale was bigger than ever this past summer and continues to be a good fundraiser. The Empties for Open Space program was briefly interrupted by several thefts. A stronger lock box and new colorful poster were installed there and the program remains popular.

Connecting land is certainly a priority for land trusts, but it is equally important for us to connect to the public. Those interested in learning more about CHPT can visit our newly redesigned website and find us on Facebook. We also registered with Green Boot Media and now anyone with an iPhone can download a pedometer app that tracks steps and raises money for CHPT.

Like many small, local, non-profit organizations, a core group of dedicated volunteers handle a vast array of projects. As we enter our 12th year of land protection, our goals include growing a lagging membership, developing a more aggressive donation campaign to raise stewardship and acquisition funds, offering programs of interest to land owners and nature enthusiasts, and encouraging more people in the community to get actively involved with CHPT. Since we only accept land in Charlton, we really do "Think Globally, Act Locally".

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Westwell
President