

February 21, 2019

2018 President's Report

"Perpetuity." Endless or indefinitely long existence.

This year, we celebrate 20 years of land conservation and preservation in Charlton.

20 years sounds like a very long time but like the land we protect in perpetuity, two decades is really just a moment. CHPT was formed by a small but dedicated group of Charlton citizens back in 1999. The faces have changed but the land has remained. That's what we are about. We are committed to protecting and preserving land for our generation, the next generation, and the next, long after we are gone.

We have a diversified Board and actively collaborate with Greater Worcester Land Trust and Opacum, two local regional land trusts that cover Charlton. Working together, we are able to preserve more land in Charlton through Conservation Restrictions, land purchases, and/or flexible subdivision open space conveyances.

We have increased our stewardship activities and identified properties needing improvements. We are exploring grants opportunities and reaching out to local businesses in an effort to obtain funding and manpower to improve trails, parking areas, and signage. Hammond Woods, Little River, and Lambs Pond are high on our priority list.

CHPT still has a website and we have also expanded our social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Wendell Berry wrote:

"Until we understand what the land is, we are at odds with everything we touch. And to come to that understanding it is necessary, even now, to leave the regions of our conquest - the cleared fields, the towns and cities, the highways - and re-enter the woods. For only there can a man encounter the silence and the darkness of his own absence. Only in this silence and darkness can he recover the sense of the world's longevity, of its ability to thrive without him, of his inferiority to it and his dependence on it. Perhaps then, having heard that silence and seen that darkness, he will grow humble before the place and begin to take it in - to learn from it what it is. As its sounds come into his hearing, and its lights and colors come into his vision, and its odors come into his nostrils, then he may come into its presence as he never has before, and he will arrive in his place and will want to remain." (pg. 27, "A Native Hill")

The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays

We encourage you to re-enter the woods.

Lisa Westwell
President