Duxbury Land Trust History

In 1994 a group of North Duxbury residents came together with the goal of conserving a traditional swimming hole on Ridley Brook. After several meetings to determine the best way to accomplish the goal, including consultation with the Vermont Land Trust, the group decided that creating a non-profit land trust was the best option.

The founding board literally ‘passed the hat’ and generated $25 to deposit on the 10-acre swimming hole property. Assistance from the Vermont Land Trust and Christine and Vincent Iorio’s donation of a critical parcel for access, were key factors in achieving the group’s goal. Fundraising including: bake sales, flea markets, and a concert helped to raise initial funds. However, the project would not have happened without the grants received from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and the Freeman Foundation.

How We Operate

The Duxbury Land Trust is a private, non-profit organization based in Duxbury, Vermont. Our mission is to preserve and protect the natural, historic and scenic resources that contribute to our town’s rural character. The Trust is administered by an all-volunteer board of nine Duxbury residents, who are guided by the By-laws, a strategic plan, and the Standards and Practices recommended by the Land Trust Alliance. The Trust is funded through membership fees, donations, and grants.

Conservation Projects: 493 acres conserved since 1995!

Swimming Hole ~ 1995 *(Located in Ridley Brook along Camel’s Hump Rd., below bridge #41)*

In 1995, the Duxbury Land Trust purchased a ten-acre property on the eastern side of a traditional, community swimming hole. Vincent and Christine Iorio donated a one-acre parcel on the western side that allowed for public access. This project resulted in the first locally owned recreational property in the Town of Duxbury. The Vermont Land Trust holds a conservation easement on the property, ensuring that the land can never be developed and a 100-foot forested buffer along the eastern bank be maintained to protect the water quality of this class B water. Public use for swimming, fishing, hiking, and winter sports is encouraged. A VAST snowmobile trail runs along a Town trail on the eastern side of the property.

*Continued on the next page*

Color version available at duxburylandtrust.org
Devlin Property - 1999 *(Located on the corner of Crossett Hill Rd. and Devlin Rd.)*
Linda Devlin donated an easement on her farmhouse and thirty-acre property to the DLT in 1999. The easement ensures that the property will not be subdivided and that the homestead will retain its traditional character, including the open fields.

Clapp Property - 2004 *(Located on the corner of Scrabble Hill Rd. and Camel’s Hump Rd.)*
Andrew Clapp, a long-time property owner in Duxbury, donated a five-acre property, including 800 feet of Ridley Brook frontage, in 2004. This donation enabled the DLT to further conserve the brook’s water quality, natural resources, scenic aspects, and recreational uses.

State Farm Properties - 2004 & 2014 *(Located on Crossett Hill Rd, along Route 100 and River Rd)*
In 2004, the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services conveyed the first of three conservation easements on the former state hospital farm to the DLT. In 2014, the DLT was granted two additional conservation easements by the Department of Buildings and General Services. One covers 100 acres of wildlife habitat and woodland on a private property and the other, consisting of approximately 92 acres, covers both sides of the River Road, from Duxbury Corner to Hart Road.

Cook Property - 2011 *(Located upstream and adjacent to the Clapp property on Ridley Brook,)*
The Cook family approached the DLT in hopes of conserving their Ridley Brook property and in May, 2011, their dream was realized when the DLT bought the property. This project was made possible by the Cook’s generosity through a bargain sale and a Vermont Housing and Conservation Board grant. Additional funds were raised from DLT members and the Duxbury community.

Duxbury Town Forest - 2017 *(Located at the end of Hart Rd)*
In 2014 the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR) offered the Town 169 acres to create a town forest. In 2015 residents at town meeting voted unanimously to accept the land. After two years of negotiation, including a Joint Resolution by the Legislature, FPR transferred 169 acres to the Town of Duxbury, with a conservation easement held by the Duxbury Land Trust.

Community Service and Special Projects

Green Up Day - Coordinated by DLT in cooperation with the Town of Duxbury since 1997

Common Ground Historical Video - Produced by DLT Board Member Vince Franke in collaboration with Harwood Union High School in 2004

Educational Events - Outdoor activities taught by DLT Board Member Rachel Sargent Mirus in 2016, 2017, & 2018

Keeping Track - Tracking program in 2002

**Special thanks to all those who helped make this anniversary possible!**

**Charter and current DLT members**

**Founding members:** Claire Blodgett, Robert ‘Bo’ Haslam, Tony Jamka, Oren Kronick, Alan Quackenbush, Audrey Quackenbush, Kathy Reilly, Winston Rost, John Shane, and Maria Stadlmayer.

**Property & easement donors:** Andy Clapp, Linda Devlin, Christine & Vincent Iorio, State of Vermont.

**Individual supporters:** Artist Alice Blodgett (logo design and fundraisers), singer/songwriter Patti Casey (concert fundraisers), Attorney David Wilson (legal services), Kelley Taft (photography)

**Business supporters:** Arvad’s Grill and Pub; Duxbury Country Store; Green Mountain Coffee Roasters; Grunberg Haus; Stowe Street Emporium; Tarrant, Marks, and Gillies; Vincent’s Drug and Variety.

**Funders:** Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Freeman Foundation, Grassroots Environmental Fund.

**Please help us conserve Duxbury’s special places by becoming a member**

Membership levels: Individual - $15, Family - $30, Supporting - $30, Contributing - $50. Sustaining - $100 Mail your tax-deductible donation to: Duxbury Land Trust, PO Box 56, Waterbury, VT 05676

**2018/2019 Board of Trustees**

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