

**Town of Andes
Regular Monthly Meeting
October 11th, 2016 at 7:00PM
Andes Town Hall**

Present:

Supervisor Wayland 'Bud' Gladstone	Councilman Dale Cole
Councilman Thomas Joyce	Councilman Thomas Hall
Councilman Shayne Moshier-Absent and Excused	Town Clerk Kimberly Tosi
Highway Superintendent Michael McAdams	

Others:

Tom Coddington-The Reporter	Sharon Drew
Michael Terry	Buffy Calvert

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM by Supervisor Gladstone.

Pledge:

The pledge of allegiance was led and recited by Councilman Hall.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the September 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes, September Budget Workshop Minutes, and September Special Meeting Minutes, made by Councilman Joyce, Seconded by Councilman Hall. All in favor, Councilman Moshier-absent and excused. Motion carried.

Privilege of the Floor:

N/A

Reports:

Highway Report

Repairs to vehicles-

2004 International 7600- changed oil and oil filter. Also changed fuel filter, serviced and greased.

1999 International- replaced heater hose, heater core, heater valve. Also changed oil and filter. Checked all fluids and greased everything.

1996 Volvo- fixed all lights

Oil and stoned-

Shaver Hollow 1 mile

Bussey Hollow 1.7 miles

Lower Dingle Hill .9 miles

Installed pipes-

-2' pipe on Hillside Road

18" pipe on Upper Dingle Hill Road

Roads worked-

Shaver Hollow Road, Little Dingle Hill Road, Weaver Hollow Road, and Coulter Road. Weaver Hollow and Coulter road were also ditched.

Put gravel on: 12 loads Close Hollow Road, 4 loads Bussey Hollow Road, 15 loads Wolf Hollow Road.

149 loads of crushed concrete on Ridge Road

Cut brush on Rich Road, getting ready to ditch and put gravel down.

The courthouse parking lot is now almost ready for motor paving.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael R. McAdams

*Highway Superintendent McAdams urged the board to develop a plan to purchase a new roller and loader. These two pieces of equipment are desperately needed and essential for the running of the highway department. He asked that the highway committee meet on this soon.

Supervisor's Report

*We received a letter from Dr. Chakar at ACS thanking the board for the repairs at the crosswalk in front of the school.

*Please see the attached proposed local law to override the tax cap. The public hearing for this will be held prior to our November board meeting.

*Our next budget workshop will be held on October 20, 2016 at 6PM.

*No bids were received for the snow plowing/shoveling. We will have to re-advertise for this again.

9/19- I met with Wayne Reynolds of Delaware County DPW and Wendell Buckman of Barton and Lugudice at Ballantine Park regarding the foot bridge. We will need a hydraulic study before we can proceed. More research will need to be conducted prior to moving forward with any plans for the bridge, including research into the availability of more grant funds.

9/27- I had a conference call with Tom Suazzo and John Moffett regarding the well testing. This should be beginning shortly.

9/30- I met with Highway Super. McAdams and marked out the expansion of the court parking lot.

10/4- I met with Tom Suazzo and John Moffet at the court to go over the parking lot design.

10/11- Kim and I met with Catherine Skalda regarding an update on the project at Ballantine Park. The invasive species were treated on October 7th. It went well. There will be some clean up that will have to be conducted in the spring. They would also like to contact the property owners on the opposite side of the brook to discuss clean up on their property as well.

-Parking at the Railroad Station was discussed.

-When the area for the court parking lot was dug up it was discovered that the sewer line would be underneath the lot. Tom Suazzo and John Moffet were consulted on how to handle the situation. They suggested to put insulation around the pipe with some stone over top to prevent freezing. We are waiting for the curb to be put in and then it will be motor paved.

-Ed MacKay and Artie Short will be working on testing and fixing the lights throughout the hamlet.

-A letter from the Watershed Ag Council was read.

Committees:**Flood Commission-**

The next public meeting will be held on October 21st at 6PM in the ACS gym. This meeting will be to provide basic information to the public and receive more input from property owners. They will also begin to discuss possible solutions. There are some mitigation options that they are evaluating at this time.

Pool- Artie Short and Councilman Joyce have started to close down the pool. The Andes Fire Department has been contacted regarding the draining. Dave Hein is being contacted regarding how to properly close down the bathrooms. The roof on the storage shed still needs to be addressed.

Economic Development- At the last meeting the reopening of the Chamber of Commerce was discussed. People are needed as officers. Small business Saturday was discussed. It will take place on November 26th. The businesses in town will be open until 8PM. The potential for a snowmobile poker run was discussed as well.

Motions:

Motion to hold the Public Hearing for the Local Law to Override the Tax Cap on November 8th, 2016 at 6:45PM, made by Councilman Hall, Seconded by Councilman Cole. All in favor, Councilman Moshier-absent and excused. Motion carried

Motion to hold the Public Hearing for the 2016 Budgets on November 8th, 2016 at 6:45PM, made by Councilman Joyce, Seconded by Councilman Hall. All in favor, Councilman Moshier-absent and excused. Motion carried

Motion to pre-approve all CHIPS bills prior to the November Board Meeting in order to meet the upcoming deadline for 2016 reimbursement, made by Councilman Hall, Seconded by Councilman Joyce. All in favor, Councilman Moshier-absent and excused. Motion carried

Motion to authorize the re-advertisement of the Winter 2016 bids due to no bids being received, made by Councilman Joyce, Seconded by Councilman Hall. All in favor, Councilman Moshier-absent and excused. Motion carried

Resolutions:

Resolution 24 of 2016 Authorization for Justice Court Funding

Be it resolved that; Town of Andes Justice, Joseph R. Grieco, is hereby authorized to submit an application for funding through the Justice Assistance Program for the 2016 cycle.

Be it further resolved that; said funding shall be used to enhance the Justice Court's ability to provide suitable and sufficient services to the Town of Andes.

Proposed by: Councilman Hall

Seconded by: Councilman Cole

Roll Call:

Councilman Moshier----Absent and Excused

Councilman Cole---Aye

Councilman Joyce---Aye

Councilman Hall----Aye

Supervisor Gladstone----Aye

Resolution 25 of 2016 Authorizing and Adopting Post-Issuance Compliance Policies and Procedures Relating to the Town's Tax-Exempt Obligations

WHEREAS, the Town of Andes, New York (the "Town") desires to ensure that the Town complies with applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the regulations promulgated thereto applicable to tax-exempt bond and note issues issued by the Town from time to time;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Andes, New York as follows:

Section 1. The Post-Issuance Compliance Policies and Procedures attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Post-Issuance Compliance Policies and Procedures") are hereby approved and adopted.

Section 2. The Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to take such actions, after appropriate consultation with the Town's bond counsel, as he or she deems necessary, appropriate or desirable to effect the implementation of the Post-Issuance Compliance Policies and Procedures and hereby further authorizes the Supervisor to delegate to such other Town officials, staff or employees as the Supervisor shall determine is necessary or appropriate, the responsibility to take certain specific actions called for by the Post-Issuance Compliance Policies and Procedures.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Proposed by: Councilman Hall

Seconded by: Councilman Cole

Roll Call:

Councilman Moshier----Absent and Excused

Councilman Cole---Aye

Councilman Joyce---Aye

Councilman Hall----Aye

Supervisor Gladstone----Aye

Resolution 26 of 2016 Town of Andes Personnel Officer

WHEREAS, the Town of Andes Town Board recognizes that the constant changes of personnel management have created a need for the position of personnel officer within the Town, and

WHEREAS, the Andes Town Clerk already performs many of these duties on a regular basis, and

WHEREAS, the creation of the position will give the Town Clerk further powers to perform additional duties as necessary, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Andes Town Board hereby creates the position of personnel officer and appoints Town Clerk Kimberly A. Tosi to the position.

Proposed by: Councilman Joyce

Seconded by: Councilman Hall

Roll Call:

Councilman Moshier----Absent and Excused

Councilman Cole---Aye

Councilman Joyce---Aye

Councilman Hall----Aye

Supervisor Gladstone----Aye

Resolution 27 of 2016 Grant Signatures

Be it Resolved by the Town Board of the Town of Andes to hereby grant Margery Merzig the authorization to sign grant contracts and other paperwork on behalf of the Town.

Proposed by: Councilman Hall

Seconded by: Councilman Cole

Roll Call:

Councilman Moshier----Absent and Excused

Councilman Cole---Aye

Councilman Joyce---Aye

Councilman Hall----Aye

Supervisor Gladstone----Aye

Approval of Bills:

Motion to approve October General Warrants #302-334 totaling \$17,785.61

October Highway Warrants #238-270 totaling \$209,248.70

October WWTP Warrants #118-134 totaling \$39,209.51

October Water Warrants #66-78 totaling \$4,096.63

October Smart Growth Warrants #24-25 totaling \$3,669.35, made by Councilman

Joyce, Seconded by Councilman Hall. All in favor, Councilman Moshier-absent and excused.

Motion carried

Motion to amend the September 2016 Smart Growth Warrants, to remove #16, 18, and 23 totaling \$2,003.44, giving the September 2016 Smart Growth Warrants a total of \$16,053.65, made by Councilman Hall, Seconded by Councilman Cole. All in favor, Councilman Moshier-absent and excused. Motion carried

Districts:

-Water (No report)

-Sewer (No report)

-On Saturday October 1, 2016 there was a blockage of the sewer line at 144 Main St. The residents hired someone to clear the blockage. After consulting with John Moffett since the blockage was between the last cleanout and the sewer main the Town of Andes is responsible for any costs occurred.

Motion to authorize the signing of a three year contract with Cummins Sales and Service for the servicing of the generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, made by Councilman Hall, Seconded by Councilman Joyce. All in favor, Councilman Moshier-absent and excused. Motion carried.

Public Comments/Questions:

N/A

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Hall, Seconded by Councilman Joyce. All in favor, Councilman Moshier-absent and excused. 8:07PM

Halloween Trick-or-Treating will take place on October 31st 4:30PM-8:30PM.

EXHIBIT A

TOWN OF ANDES POST-ISSUANCE COMPLIANCE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR TAX-EXEMPT BOND OBLIGATIONS

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

This Post-Issuance Compliance Policies and Procedures (this "Policy and Procedures") sets forth specific policies and procedures of the Town of Andes, New York (the "Town") designed to ensure the Town complies with applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and the regulations promulgated thereunder (the "Treasury Regulations") applicable to tax-exempt bonds (the "Bonds") issued to finance Town facilities.

It is the Town's policy to fulfill all requirements that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of Bonds in order that interest on such obligations be, or continue to be, or would be but for certain provisions of the Code, excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes. The Town recognizes that compliance with the applicable provisions of the Code and the Treasury Regulations is an on-going process, necessary during the entire term of the Bonds and is an integral component of the Town's debt management. Accordingly, the implementation of this Policy and Procedures will require on-going monitoring and, more than likely, ongoing consultation with legal counsel.

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

This Policy and Procedures shall be communicated to all Town officers and staff with responsibility or control over any aspect of the Bond issuance, the investment or expenditure of Bond proceeds and the use of Bond-financed assets, including but not limited to those who manage, direct or influence the following:

1. The pre-issuance process and decision-making, including identification of eligible projects;
2. The expenditure of Bond proceeds and other Town funds for project costs;
3. The investment of Bond proceeds and other Town funds;
4. The use of all facilities and other assets financed or refinanced by Bonds, including use by the Town or by third parties pursuant to leases, management agreements, service agreements, fee-for-use or other arrangements;
5. The sale or other disposition of any facilities or other assets financed or refinanced by Bonds;
6. The creation and retention of documentation relating to expenditure of Bond proceeds, the use and disposition of Bond-financed assets, Arbitrage and tax return filings; and

7. The recording and reporting of financial transactions related to Bonds.

DEFINITIONS

"Applicable Federal Law" – Includes the Code and the Treasury Regulations, including Sections 141 through 150 of the Code and the related Treasury Regulations (Note: IRS Publication 4079: Tax-Exempt Governmental Bonds Compliance Guide provides guidance and explanation for most areas of tax-exempt financing relevant to the Town. The report of the Advisory Committee on Tax Exempt and Government Entities, entitled: After the Bonds are Issued: Then What?, is also a useful resource for explanation of Applicable Federal Law).

"Arbitrage" – Earnings from investment of Bond proceeds in excess of the amount that would have been earned had the funds been invested at the Bond yield, adjusted for certain expenses (i.e., investment yield higher than the Bond yield).

"Private Business Use" – Examples of Private Business Use include the use of Bond-financed assets by parties other than the Town including use by third parties pursuant to leases, management or service contracts that do not meet Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") requirements, and any other arrangements that provide third parties with special legal entitlements to use or occupy (or otherwise benefit from) Bond-financed property. Generally, no more than ten percent (10%) of Bond proceeds may be used for Private Business Use. The use of Bond proceeds is generally determined based on the use of the Bond-financed property.

"Tax Certificate" – The arbitrage and tax compliance certificate signed by the Town at the closing of a Bond issuance in which the Town makes certain representations, warranties and covenants relating to the expected use of the Bond proceeds, the tax eligibility of the projects and the Town's operations.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

General Policy

It is the Town's policy to comply with all applicable laws, regulations and contracts applicable to Bonds, including all Applicable Federal Law, to ensure that interest on the Bonds remains exempt from federal income tax. Unless otherwise approved by the Town's legal counsel, the Town shall comply with the guidelines with respect to management contracts set forth in Revenue Procedure 97-13 (for contracts entered into prior to August 18, 2017) or Revenue Procedure 2016-44 otherwise, as the same may be amended and supplemented from time to time.

Responsibility for Monitoring Post-Issuance Tax Compliance

The Town's Supervisor (the "Supervisor") shall have primary responsibility for monitoring the Town's compliance with post-issuance federal tax requirements for Bonds, and for implementing/overseeing procedures necessary to ensure such compliance. The Supervisor shall communicate this Policy and Procedures to all appropriate Town personnel. The Supervisor may modify the detailed policies and procedures described herein as necessary to promote compliance with Applicable Federal Law.

Detailed Policies and Procedures

The Town shall abide by the following policies, and shall implement the following procedures, to ensure that interest on Bonds remains tax-exempt:

1. Expenditures of Bond Proceeds.

- a. Bond proceeds, including investment earnings thereon, shall be disbursed only for project costs, capitalized interest (i.e., interest payments during project construction), Bond issuance costs and other purposes expressly allowed under the Bond documents and authorizing bond ordinances. All Bond-financed property must be owned by the Town.
- b. If the Town intends to reimburse itself from Bond proceeds for project costs paid prior to issuance of the Bonds, the Town shall adopt a declaration of official intent to reimburse project costs. The Town shall consult with nationally recognized bond counsel to ensure the declaration of intent meets the requirements of Applicable Federal Law.

2. Final Allocation of Bond Proceeds. Promptly after the final expenditure of Bond proceeds, the Supervisor shall prepare a written report documenting the allocation of Bond proceeds (including interest earnings thereon) and other Town funds to project expenditures (the "Final Allocation"). In all cases, the Final Allocation shall be completed within 18 months after the later of the date Bond proceeds are expended or the date the project is placed in service, but not later than 5 years after the Bonds were issued. It is recommended that the Town consult with nationally recognized bond counsel in connection with the Final Allocation of Bond proceeds. Reminders should be placed in appropriate calendars to ensure Final Allocation of Bond proceeds are made timely.

3. Private Business Use of Bond-Financed Property.

- a. General. No more than ten percent (10%) of Bond proceeds may be used for Private Business Use, and such use may occur only in accordance with the Tax Certificate and Applicable Federal Law. The use of Bond proceeds is generally evaluated, for Private Business Use purposes, based on the use of Bond-financed assets. The following uses of Bond-financed property shall require the Supervisor's prior approval:
 - (i) use by third parties (i.e., other than the Town), including but not limited to leases, licenses, fee-for-use or other arrangements;
 - (ii) management or service contracts under which the manager or service provider's compensation is based, in whole or in part, on income from operation from the facility; and

(iii) any other use that could potentially be considered Private Business Use under Applicable Federal Law.

- b. Annual Measurement of Private Business Use. The Supervisor shall maintain a record of all Bond financed property, including the amount of Bond proceeds allocated to each asset, which shall be based on the Final Allocation of Bond proceeds described above. The Supervisor shall annually review all uses of Bond financed property and determine the percentage of Private Business Use of Bond-financed property. The Supervisor shall maintain records of all Private Business Use, if any, of Bond-financed property, including copies of the pertinent leases, contracts or other documentation, and the related determination that any Private Business Use is within permissible limits under Applicable Federal Law.

4. Change of Use. Any significant change in the use of Bond-financed property must be reported to the Supervisor prior to implementation. The Supervisor shall determine whether the proposed new use may constitute Private Business Use. If the use may be Private Business Use, the Supervisor shall consult with counsel for tax advice on whether that use or arrangement, if put into effect, will be consistent with the restrictions on Private Business Use and, if not, whether any "remedial action" permitted under the Code may be taken by the Town as a means of enabling that use.

5. Sale or Disposition. Any sale or other disposition of Bond-financed property must be reported to the Supervisor prior execution of any agreement of sale or other agreement of disposition. The Supervisor shall determine whether the Bond-financed property has any remaining useful life in accordance with the Tax Certificate and Applicable Federal Law, and if so, consult with nationally recognized bond counsel as to the requirements of Applicable Federal Law applicable to the sale or other disposition and the appropriate "remedial action" permitted by the Code that must be undertaken by the Town as a result of the potential sale or other disposition of the Bond-financed property.

6. Investment of Bond Proceeds; Arbitrage and Rebate.

- a. Prior to expenditure for project costs, Bond proceeds shall be invested solely in compliance with the Local Finance Law, Applicable Federal Law and the Tax Certificate. The Town may invest Bond proceeds at a yield in excess of the Bond yield only during the applicable "temporary period" (as defined in the Code and the Treasury Regulations), and shall provide for yield restriction on the investment of such proceeds after the applicable temporary period. The Town shall ensure that investments acquired with proceeds of an issue are purchased at "fair market value," as defined in Treasury Regulations.
- b. The Supervisor shall determine whether the Bonds are eligible for an Arbitrage rebate exception. If the Bonds are not exempt from Arbitrage rebate, the Supervisor shall compute the amount of Arbitrage earnings, and make all required rebate payments to the IRS, on each computation date required by Applicable

Federal Law. The Supervisor shall consider retaining an arbitrage rebate service provider to prepare arbitrage rebate calculations.

7. Reissuance. Before modifying any Bond terms, the Town shall consult with nationally recognized bond counsel to determine whether the proposed modification could potentially be treated as a "reissuance" of those Bonds for federal income tax purposes.

8. Filing of Returns. The Town will work with nationally recognized bond counsel to prepare and file any returns with the IRS relating to Arbitrage rebate in a timely manner. The Town will confirm with bond counsel that the information report required to be filed upon issuance of Bonds (e.g., Form 8038) was filed with the IRS on a timely basis.

9. Record Retention. Unless otherwise permitted by future Treasury Regulations or IRS guidance, written records (which may be in electronic form) will be maintained with respect to each Bond issue for as long as those Bonds (and any Bonds issued to refinance those Bonds) remain outstanding, plus three years. The records to be maintained shall include:

- a. basic records relating to the Bond issuance including the official transcript of proceedings;
- b. documentation evidencing expenditure of Bond proceeds including, but not limited to, purchase contracts, construction contracts, progress payment requests, invoices, cancelled checks, payment of Bond issuance costs, and records of "allocations" of Bond proceeds to reimburse the Town for project expenditures made before the Bonds were actually issued;
- c. records showing the specific assets financed with Bond proceeds (including assets to which Bond proceeds are allocated pursuant to the Final Allocation described above);
- d. information, records and calculations showing that, with respect to each Bond issue, the Town was eligible for one of the Arbitrage rebate spending exceptions or, if not, that the Arbitrage rebate amount, if any, was calculated and timely paid to the IRS;
- e. documentation evidencing use of Bond-financed property by public and private entities (including copies of leases and management contracts);
- f. records showing that special use arrangements, if any, affecting Bond-financed property made by the Town with third parties, if any, are consistent with applicable restrictions on Private Business Use of property financed with proceeds of tax-exempt Bonds;
- g. records of any sale or disposition of Bond-financed property, including terms of sale, and documentation of any "remedial action" undertaken as a result of the sale or other disposition; and

- h. documentation pertaining to any investment of proceeds of the issue, including the purchase and sale of securities, calculations for each class of investments and actual investment income received and Arbitrage rebate calculations.

The purpose of the foregoing record retention policy is to enable the Town to readily demonstrate to the IRS, upon an audit of any Bond issue, that the Town has fully complied with all Applicable Federal Law requirements that must be satisfied after the issue date of the Bonds so that interest on those Bonds continues to be tax-exempt under the Code.

10. Consultation with Nationally Recognized Bond Counsel. The Supervisor shall consult with qualified legal counsel as appropriate to resolve questions relating to potential Private Business Use of Bond-financed assets, Final Allocation of Bond proceeds, Arbitrage rebate and other matters relating to compliance with Applicable Federal Law.

11. Corrective Actions. Upon discovering any violation of Applicable Federal Law including, but not limited to, excess Private Business Use, violation of Arbitrage restrictions or sale of Bond-financed assets, the Supervisor shall promptly consult with legal counsel to determine appropriate remedial action to correct such violation. If remedial action is not available, the Town will undertake to remedy the violation through the IRS Voluntary Closing Agreement Program (VCAP).

Adopted: October 11th, 2016

ANDES CENTRAL SCHOOL

85 Delaware Avenue
P.O. Box 248
Andes, New York 13731

Telephone (845) 676-3166

Fax (845) 676-3181

Guidance
Nicole Bishop

Superintendent
Dr. Robert L. Chakar, Jr.

Treasurer
Janice Stevens

October 4, 2016

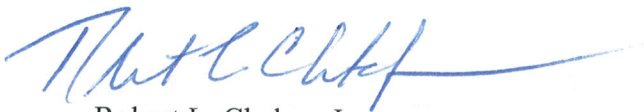
Mr. Wayland Gladstone
Town Supervisor
P.O. Box 125
Andes, NY 13731

Dear Bud:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the Town Board for repairing the sidewalk at the crosswalk in front of our school. The condition of the sidewalk was becoming a safety issue for our children, staff, and all people walking along the sidewalk.

Again, thank you for your efforts in making sure this was repaired. The sidewalk is now safe for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. L. Chakar, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert L. Chakar, Jr.
Superintendent

cc: Board of Education

Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Viability

33195 State Highway 10, Walton, New York 13856

phone: 607-865-7790

fax: 607-865-4932

nycwatershed.org



September 22, 2016


Dear Supervisor Wayland Gladstone,

RE: **WATERSHED AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL AND NYC DEP ANNOUNCE \$43
MILLION STEWARDSHIP FUND FOR
LONG-TERM PROTECTION OF FARM AND FOREST EASEMENTS**

The Watershed Agricultural Council is proud to announce the receipt of a \$43 million award from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The funds will be utilized to "seed" an endowment and to safeguard agriculture and forestry easements over the next 20 years and beyond.

Since our inception in 1993, our board comprised primarily of Watershed residents and farmers, have sought to protect the Watershed region's farms and forestland. By balancing the city, state, and federal clean water requirements, the Council has provided landowners with valuable programs and expertise.

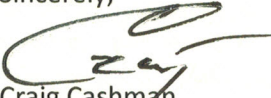
The culture and life blood of the Catskill region has always been about working landscapes and protecting farmland, and has been a priority for the Council since inception. The Conservation Easement Program has been one tool that the organization has been able to utilize to help save farms in the region. According to American Farmland Trust, since the 1980s, the equivalent of 5,000 farms have been lost to development in New York, an average of three farms a week over the last 30 years.

Our conservation easements protect land for future generations by conditioning development and certain uses necessary to protect specific conservation values, such as water quality, while allowing for the retention of other rights and uses by a landowner. The easements are designed to allow for continued activities such as agriculture, timber harvests and blue stone quarrying. After acquiring a conservation easement, the Council commits itself (under state and federal laws) to the annual stewardship of those easements in perpetuity. Stewardship refers to all aspects of managing a conservation easement in perpetuity (after its acquisition).

Since 2010 we have been negotiating through the FAD regulators and eventually DEP to ensure that all land associated with conservation easements through the Council (25,845 acres to date) will remain locally controlled throughout time and therefore have the proper funding to do so.

This commitment by our Board to safeguard agriculture and forestry easements through an endowment over the next 20 years and beyond is a commitment to our region and our neighbors.

Sincerely,


Craig Cashman
Executive Director


Sally Fairbairn
Chair