

BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST

Conservation of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 322, Bethlehem, CT 06751

P R E S S R E L E A S E

A WINTER WALK IN THE BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST'S BELLAMY PRESERVE

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Land Trust

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BETHLEHEM: During the holiday season when friends and family gather is the perfect time to get out and enjoy nature. The Bethlehem Land Trust's 80-acre Bellamy Preserve is easy to find right in the middle of town. In effect, it is Bethlehem's Central Park gifted to the Land Trust by the late Caroline Ferriday, whose historic Bellamy-Ferriday House overlooks the Green.

The Bellamy Preserve is surrounded on three sides by roads with an entrance just off the Green on Munger Lane. A trail map and guidelines for enjoying the Preserve are prominently placed at the beginning of the wide trail down the middle of the woodland. On the way in just snap a picture of the map with your smartphone and enjoy the trails. By following the main trail you will end up at the old cemetery fronting on Bellamy Lane. The Reverend Joseph Bellamy, the town's first Congregational minister, is buried there along with many early settlers. The Bellamy Preserve is the Bethlehem Land Trust's star property and open for enjoyment year-round.

"We work hard to keep the trails open and to monitor the condition of valuable trees. I see people enjoying the Preserve at all times of day, especially walking their leashed dogs through the morning mist or late afternoon sunlight," noted Doug Mahard, the board member who stewards the Preserve.

To date the Bethlehem Land Trust holds 359 acres in permanent preservation. Of these, 17 parcels are owned by the Trust and 7 parcels are held in Conservation Easements. The Land Trust, established in 1980, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the permanent conservation and stewardship of local farmland, fields, forests, and

wetlands and to educating the public on the importance of conservation. For more information please visit the Trust's website at www.bethlehemlandtrustct.org.

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