

BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST

Conservation of Natural Resources

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

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BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST ACQUIRES 31 ACRES

BETHLEHEM: After careful consideration The Bethlehem Land Trust has just purchased an ecologically diverse 31-acre wooded parcel on Still Hill Road, one of the last dirt roads in town. The piece, formerly owned by Earl and Marian Canfield, is a rural wilderness of particular beauty. It forms a deep rectangle on the south side of Still Hill Road, with small seasonal streams meandering down the hillside into Wood Creek, which flows through the middle of the property. The remnants of an old dam are still visible along the Creek.

In 2011 the Bethlehem Land Trust board of directors formulated a strategic plan as well as land acquisition policies. "This purchase, to be known as the Canfield Preserve, fits into the acquisition criteria in that it has a water course, is scenic, and provides wildlife habitat, and we are thrilled that a property of this size and beauty will be open to the public for passive recreation," noted Land Trust president Mary Hawvermale.

The Canfield Preserve is the first piece the Bethlehem Land Trust has purchased since 200_ when the Two Rivers Preserve was acquired. The Canfield Preserve brings the Land Trust's total holdings to 338 acres. The land is being purchased with the proceeds of the Land Trust's annual dinner-auction and other donated funds specifically earmarked for land acquisition. An acquisition fundraising campaign will be launched in the near future to strengthen the Trust and enable it to continue its conservation efforts.

Next spring, trails will be cut in the new preserve along Wood Creek and through the woods by volunteers. Anyone interested in helping with trail development is encouraged to be in touch with the Land Trust at bethlehemlandtrustct@gmail.com.

The Bethlehem 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 go to www.bethlehemctlandtrust.org.

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