

LOT 15 FUNDING POSSIBILITIES

1/20/2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One task the Lot 15 Committee was charged with was to look into possible funding sources should the Town decide to pursue purchase and development of the property. Actual fundraising was not done nor were applications begun with any agency on behalf of the Town.

In researching funding options for Lot 15, we identified a number of sources for which the Town can apply for various phases/needs of the project. What follows should not be considered an exhaustive list of all possible funding sources: research into funding opportunities should continue as public uses for Lot 15 are more specifically and completely defined. The potential sources are sorted below by:

Start Up Funds / Planning / Fundraising Assistance

Land Acquisition

Development / Preservation.

Some might be found to be more appropriate than others as the scope and focus of the project are clarified. For example, some sources may be more appropriate for preservation or environmental protection projects, while others may be more appropriate should the town choose to pursue development of housing units.

The agencies contacted were asked if a project such as developing Lot 15 for public use might be deemed as “appropriate” to the mission of the organization/fund. All of the sources listed below answered yes to that question. Most also offered the advice that showing evidence of community support and civic engagement are important components of a successful application.

FUNDING SOURCES BY PROJECT ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED

Start Up/Planning/Fundraising Assistance

Hinesburg Land Trust -- General, fundraising support, planning assistance and funding
Johanna Favrot Fund -- through National Trust for Historic Preservation
New England Grassroots Environmental Fund
Private donations
Sid and Cecelia Lance Family Foundation
Vermont Community Foundation -- Special and Urgent Needs Grant
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board -- Feasibility Fund
Vermont Land Trust -- Fundraising advice and support

Land Acquisition

Davis Conservation Foundation
Freeman Foundation (through VLT, need to send letter of inquiry – no website or phone listed)
Hinesburg Land Trust -- land purchase and related costs
Leonard C and Mildred F Ferguson Foundation (need to send letter of inquiry – no website or phone listed)
Private donations
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources / Land and Water Conservation Fund - Outdoor Recreation Grants
Vermont Community Foundation - possibly a number of programs such as High Meadows Fund, Kelsey Trust
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

Development/Preservation

Fields Pond Foundation (need to send letter of inquiry – no website or phone listed)
The Glastenbury Foundation (VLT suggestion; need to send letter of inquiry – no website or phone listed)
Hinesburg Land Trust
Housing Vermont
New England Grassroots Environment Fund
Preservation Trust of Vermont
Private donations
Vermont Watershed Grants
Vermont Transportation Enhancements Program
Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services

INDIVIDUAL FUNDING SOURCE DETAILS

Davis Conservation Foundation

- **CONTACT:** Anne Vaillancourt, Executive Director
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.davisfoundations.org/site/conservation.asp>
- **SOURCE:** Private foundation; land acquisition and/or development, \$2500 - \$20,000 grants
- **FOR:** Supports the wise utilization, protection and advancement of our physical environment and the different natural forms of life that inhabit it, including wildlife, sea life and mankind as they are impacted by the environment. To accomplish this, the foundation supports organizations whose areas of interest include:
 - Projects related to wildlife, wildlife habitat, environmental protection and outdoor recreation
 - Projects that strengthen volunteer activity and outreach/community involvement in the above-noted areas
- **IMPORTANT DATES:** April 10 and October 10
- **OTHER INFORMATION:** Grant applicants register and download application from the website: http://www.davisfoundations.org/site/application_conservation.asp

Hinesburg Land Trust

- **CONTACT:** Paul Wieczorek; mgcpw@gmavt.net
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.hinesburglandtrust.org/>
- **SOURCE:** fundraising events, grants
- **FOR:** Land acquisition, help in finding funding sources, project advocacy, help with land planning and conservation
- **IMPORTANT DATES:** no set dates; apply at any time

Housing Vermont

- **CONTACT:** Kathy Beyer, Vice President for Development (kbeyer@hvt.org)
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.hvt.org/home/>
- **SOURCE:** Non-profit syndication and development company; partners with local non-profits, cities and towns, community action groups and housing agencies; uses multiple funding sources, mostly Low Income Housing Tax Credits
- **FOR:** Affordable rental housing; frequently meets other community development needs
 - Could contribute up to \$10,000 per unit for right to develop
 - Pays development and construction costs associated with housing units
 - Would own housing portion as a condominium within a multi-storied building

Housing Vermont (continued)

- **IMPORTANT DATES:** Various dates depending on funding source used; would take about a year to put a project together
- **OTHER INFORMATION:** KB commented that there are three possible Hinesburg village locations for affordable housing developments being discussed with Housing Vermont at this time; Lot 15 is also location they would consider good

Johanna Favrot Fund

- **CONTACT:** Brent_Leggs@nthp.org or Rebecca_Williams@nthp.org
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.preservationnation.org>
- **SOURCE:** through National Trust for Historic Preservation; administered by Preservation Trust of Vermont
- **FOR:** \$2500-\$10,000 for projects that “contribute to the preservation or recapture of an authentic sense of place.” Funds may be used for professional advice, conferences, workshops or education programs.
- **IMPORTANT DATES:** Applications due February 1

New England Grassroots Environmental Fund

- **CONTACT:** Cheryl King Fischer, Executive Director (fischer@grassrootsfund.org); Bart Westdijk, Program Officer (bart@grassrootsfund.org)
- **WEBSITE:** <http://grassrootsfund.org/>
- **SOURCE:** Foundation grants (e.g. Ben and Jerry’s Foundation, Jan & David Blittersdorf Foundation, Davis Conservation Fund, Lintilhac Foundation) and private donations
- **FOR:** Uses grant-making, networking, and skills-building to fuel local activism and social change
 - Small Grants Program - typically between \$500 and \$2,500 for its region-wide small grants program
 - Special Grants Program - informal or ad hoc groups without 501©(3) charitable designations
- **IMPORTANT DATES:** Various dates depending on funding source used
- **OTHER INFORMATION:** NEGEF has supported a community garden project in Hinesburg and a local citizens group’s efforts to study impacts of proposed commercial development of Lot 15

Preservation Trust of Vermont

- **CONTACT:** Paul Bruhn, Executive Director (paul@ptvermont.org)
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.ptvermont.org/index.php>

Preservation Trust of Vermont (continued)

- **SOURCE:** Uses private foundations (e.g. Freeman Foundation, Robert Sincerbeaux Fund, Hart Family Fund for Small Towns), private donations and partners with local and state agencies
- **FOR:** Broad mission to assist with fundraising, planning and construction
 - Community Forestry Projects
 - Feasibility studies for endangered buildings and sites, architectural planning, landscape research and planning, development of heritage education programs, and co-sponsorship of workshops or conferences
- **IMPORTANT DATES:** Depends on funding source being applied to
- **OTHER INFORMATION:** PTV has offered grant for appraisal of Lot 15, provided grant to local citizens group to study impacts of proposed commercial development of Lot 15

Vermont Community Foundation

- **CONTACT NAME:** Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.vermontcf.org/>
- **SOURCES:**
 - Community Fund Grant
 - Special and Urgent Needs (SUN) Fund – up to \$5,000
 - Regional or Issues-Based Competitive Grants
 - Partner of VCF -- High Meadows Fund – one of foci is “promoting smart land use.” Letter of inquiry to request consideration for invitation to submit full grant proposal.
- **FOR:**
 - Community Fund Grant – “general operating support” very competitive, geared toward the following goals:
 - Basic Human Needs
 - Sustainable Communities
 - Successful Communities
 - SUN -- provides immediate support for nonprofit organizations that are facing structural or programmatic emergencies, or experiencing an unexpected opportunity that will significantly enhance the ability of the organization to meet its mission. SUN could be appropriate for helping fund legal or appraisal costs associated with Lot 15.

Vermont Community Foundation (continued)

- **IMPORTANT DATES:**
 - Community Fund grant: early April
 - SUN: Rolling (turn-around no longer than 21 days from application)
 - High Meadows Fund – contact Gaye Symington at VCF
- **OTHER INFORMATION:** Online application process. CKI recommended Community Fund Grant applications make certain to focus on civic engagement and input from the entire community. Will also need a full budget and costs. Receiving funding from SUN would not preclude eligibility for Community Fund Grant.

Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services

- **CONTACT NAME:** Mike Obuchowski, Commissioner
- **WEBSITE:** <http://bgs.vermont.gov/>
- **SOURCE:** Recreational Facilities Grant program; up to \$25,000 (need 50% match)
- **FOR:** Capital costs associated with the development and creation of community recreational opportunities in Vermont communities. Usually equipment such as playground equipment; cannot be used as “seed money” or projects in conceptual stages.
- **IMPORTANT DATES:** Applications due Sept 2, 2011
- **OTHER INFORMATION:** Entire 2011 application can be viewed online at <http://bgs.vermont.gov/sites/bgs/files/pdfs/BGS-Grant-Rec-Facilities-Program.pdf>

Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

- **CONTACT NAME:** Nancy Everhart
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.vhcb.org/>
- **SOURCE:** Up to \$150,000 for purchase of recreational lands. Money is from Property Transfer Tax
- **FOR:**
 - May be used for acquisition costs and associated projects such as appraisals, options, closing costs. Not available for construction of recreation facilities.
 - Need 33% of costs raised from other sources.
 - Need to demonstrate municipal support.
- **IMPORTANT DATES:** Applications due March 5, 2012; April 9, 2012
- **OTHER INFORMATION:**
 - Property will need appraisal, signed Purchase and Sale agreement
 - Conservation easement will be held by VHCB; Town defines what use(s) will be allowed; Town cannot sell land
 - VHCB also has Feasibility Fund to help municipalities fund appraisals, engineering and environmental studies, options, etc. Up to \$10,000 available through this program.

Vermont Land Trust

- **CONTACT NAME:** Allen Karnatz
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.vlt.org/>
- **SOURCE:** Not a project that could receive VLT funding; VLT could advise on possible funding sources. According to e-mail from Allen in May 2011, the VLT “can’t intervene or become advocates for or against a controversial land development project...mission is to protect land that’s important for a town’s future, but we have to be careful about coming out too strongly on one side or another.” VLT might be willing to assist if the town owned the property in question. Allen said many organizations that donate to VT Land Trust could be approached by town without VLT intervention.
- **FOR:** Support in finding funding sources
- **OTHER INFORMATION:** AK recommended contacts at Agency of Natural Resources (Land and Water Conservation Fund) and VT Housing and Conservation Board.

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

- **CONTACT NAME:** Ed O’Leary (interim director)
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.vtfpr.org/reclwcf/index.cfm>
- **SOURCE:** Land and Water Conservation Fund (Outdoor Recreation Grants) from Federal funds, offers 50% matching assistance to state and local governments.
- **FOR:** Public Outdoor Recreational Use in perpetuity; acquisition of land for parks and public outdoor recreation, or development of new facilities and/or renovation of existing facilities for outdoor recreation.
 - Grantee agrees to develop, operate and maintain the development to acceptable National Park Service (NPS) standards for public outdoor recreation. Grants are subject to approval by the National Park Service (NPS).
 - ANR administers
- **IMPORTANT DATES:** Next awarding, Spring 2012. Will most likely announce in Jan 2012, for an April deadline.
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.vtfpr.org/recgrant/trgrant.cfm>
- **SOURCE:** Trail Grant Program
- **FOR:** Grants for trail development; up to \$20,000; up to 80% project cost
- **WEBSITE:** http://www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes/htm/lp_watershedgrants.htm
- **SOURCE:** Vermont Watershed Grants; funded from proceeds from the sale of Vermont Conservation License Plates; awarded and administered by ANR; up to \$6,000; contact -- Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, Building 10 North, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0408. Telephone: (802) 241-3777.
- **FOR:** Watershed related and can include monitoring, education, conservation, recreation, and/or the identification and protection of historic and cultural resources.

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (continued)

- **IMPORTANT DATES:** Application deadline for 2012 was December 2011; check website in fall for announcements of 2013 program and deadline.
- **OTHER INFORMATION:** EO'L Recommendation (“you know what I’d recommend you do?”)
 - Partner with the Hinesburg Land Trust to work with the VT Housing Conservation Board
 - Apply for Outdoor Recreation Grant
 - Also apply for State Buildings/General Services’ recreation facilities grant program for equipment, etc.

Vermont Agency of Transportation

- **CONTACT NAME:** Kevin Russell, Enhancement Program Coordinator, Kevin.russell@state.vt.us; Local Transportation Facilities, Agency of Transportation, National Life Building, Drawer 33, Montpelier, VT 05633-5001. Telephone: (802) 828-0583.
- **WEBSITE:**
<http://www.aot.state.vt.us/progdev/Sections/LTF/Enhancements%20Program/EnhancementsHomePage.htm>
- **SOURCE:** Transportation Enhancements Program
- **FOR:** Reimbursement grants to local, state and federal governments and non-profit organizations for projects that enhance multi-modal transportation goals in the areas of historic preservation, bike and pedestrian paths, scenic protection , archeological planning, mitigation of highway water runoff, tourist and welcome centers, and transportation museums; \$10,000 to approximately \$300,000; 80:20 match required.
- **IMPORTANT DATES:** Pending approval of the program schedule, applications for 2012 will go out in mid-June and will be due in mid-August 2011. In order to qualify, applicants must also send a letter of intent to apply and attend a mandatory training session in June (dates to be determined) to learn the details of the grant program. A complete schedule will be posted on the website when it is finalized.
- **OTHER INFORMATION:** Eligible projects must demonstrate an obvious connection to transportation and be linked to one or more of twelve specific activities, including:
 - Provision of Facilities for Pedestrians and Bicycles
 - Provision of Safety and Educational Activities for Pedestrians and Bicyclists
 - Landscaping and Other Scenic Beautification