



MATTAPOISETT LAND TRUST, Inc.

Box 31, Mattapoissett, MA 02739

News Letter: Spring 1998

MATTAPOISETT LAND TRUST: We are an independent non-profit organization. The board and standing committees are volunteer functions provided by interested residents and friends of Mattapoissett. MLT is entirely dependent on your financial support in annual membership renewals, gifts, grants, and bequests. Our non-profit status under the IRS designation 501c (3) makes all gifts tax deductible.

The Land Trust works closely with many town government boards and committees but is entirely independent of the town for both funding and management.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS: Please remember MLT in your estate planning considerations. A tract of land, a conservation easement or other resources will help us preserve open space and conserve nature's bounty. We will be pleased to refer you to very skilled and disinterested accounting, financial planning and legal advisors.

MUNRO SEAWALL: Our most successful and most visible project has been the rebuilding of the seawall on the Munro property next to the Mattapoissett town wharves. Not only has 450 feet of seawall been rebuilt in a way that protects the property and roadway, but loam and seagrass transplants have been donated by Frank J. Linhares Construction and will be put in-place by the third graders from Center School under the watchful eye of Charles F. Duponte Landscaping personnel and Mr. Jack Murphy, principal of the school. In addition, thanks to Mahoney's Hardware and Denham Construction, new fencing is being installed along the road.

This \$100,000 project will be funded by generous contributions from members, local businesses and good friends of Mattapoissett and of the Land Trust. Our members can take satisfaction from the fact that the Land Trust is preserving this open space by the water for the enjoyment of all. We urge you to make use of the property for a little quiet contemplation.

DUNSEITH PROPERTY; In our newsletter last fall, we were enthusiastic about a possible use for the "Sea Horse " property at the corner of Route 6 and North Street. We are sorry to report that after closer scrutiny by each party involved, the project seemed less attractive and it was decided not to go forward. Discussions have been discontinued.

Our present plan for the property is to raze the gift shop and garage which cannot meet current building codes and are costly to maintain. We hope to retain the antique, 1809 house and find a long-term tenant which meets the terms of Henry B. Dunseith's will which requires that a tenant be a non-profit, charitable organization. The tenant

must be willing and able to bring the house and grounds up to community standards in exchange for rent-free, exclusive long-term use.

Barring identification of such a suitable use in the near future, we will seek interest for moving the house to private property, and in the absence of such interest before the 1998-1999 winter, the house will also be razed. The 3.5 acre site will be maintained in a partially natural state for visual enjoyment in our congested commercial center.

ANNUAL MEETING: Our Annual Meeting will be held at the Friends Meeting House on Route 6 in Mattapoisett on Saturday, June 13 at 10:00 A.M.. We hope you will come. Mr. Mark Rasmussen of the Coalition for Buzzards Bay will bring us up to date on environmental and open space initiatives in the SouthCoast region. Following his talk, all are invited to walk the magnificent property given to the Trust by Ruth Martocci. The entrance for this walk is just across Route 6 from the Meeting House on Old Sippican Path. The walk is along an old lumber road so you will want comfortable shoes and tick protection. There will be maps and plenty of guides on-hand to show the way.

VOLUNTEERS: The Land Trust seeks to keep Mattapoisett special through environmental programs, nature study initiatives, preservation of natural open spaces, etc. We need your cash for things we can't do (e.g. Legal, Surveys, Licenses). We also need volunteers for the many activities best achieved through native skills and enthusiasm. While we are happy to have people join the Board or take on duties of officers or committees, we also need volunteers who want to take on a specific project, work on it for a while, and then retire. Please let us know what you'd like to do.

HARBOR DAYS: We plan our usual booth at Mattapoisett Harbor Days on July 18, 19. There will be a special program Saturday afternoon to celebrate completion of the Seawall on the neighboring Munro property. Please come and visit with the Land Trust representatives, learn about Land Trust properties and plans, or just buy a hat to ward off the summer sun.

ANNUAL GIVING: Thank you for your regular support. Please renew your membership as soon as comfortable and consider increasing the amount to allow us an even greater chance to save critical open space and natural habitat. And while we're asking for financial help, if you have not yet contributed to the Seawall fund, now is also a good time.

Please make checks payable to: MATTAPOISETT LAND TRUST, and mail to Box 31, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. And remember contributions are deductible under section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

For more information about the Land Trust, please call Bob Atkinson, 758-4401: Brad Hathaway, 758-3579, or Randall Kunz, 758-2966.