



WOODSTOCK LAND CONSERVANCY

Box 864
WOODSTOCK
NEW YORK
12498
845.679.6481



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Dear Friend,

The Ashokan Rail Trail opened just weeks ago and since then you've shared with us your unbridled enthusiasm for the trail's beauty, its breathtaking first mile out onto Glenford Dike, and how it has brought people together from all over our communities.

As longtime WLC friend, Susan Goldman, said, "Dick and I have been supporters of the Rail Trail since we first heard about the possibility. Initially I helped the WLC Committee build public support for it and can really appreciate the years of work it took to open. It was a joy to stand there on opening day with dozens of people I knew who put in incredible financial, physical and political effort to build the Trail. And we love that, every time we walk or bike the Trail, we see lots of people we know getting fresh air and friendship. It is a modern day "Commons," open to everyone. Thanks to WLC for its true leadership in making the Ashokan Rail Trail a reality."

WLC knows we could not have done it without your financial support. Your generosity is essential to helping us accomplish our ambitious goals supporting conservation and sustainable communities at a critical, crisis moment. We are committed to continued stewardship and preservation of the Ashokan Rail Trail and all of WLC's trails and conservation areas. We look to you, our generous supporters to help us continue this important work. **Please consider making a generous donation today!**

This year we have an exciting opportunity with a challenge grant of \$30,000. If your collective donations reach this goal, several anonymous donors will match this amount. Please help us achieve this goal!

Conservation of land, water resources, scenic and historic areas is at the core of our mission. Every year our board and staff work steadily, vetting acquisition opportunities to knit together a conservation landscape that assures protection of critical habitat and biodiversity, in an era of climate change, as well as protection of our watersheds and the precious, pure, healthy water they provide. We provide free public access and fascinating quality programs at our many wonderful preserves. In recent years we have acquired Israel Wittman Sanctuary; added two additional properties to our Mt. Guardian ridgeline preserve, increasing the conserved lands from 60 to 90 acres; and protected an 11-acre parcel at the base of Ohayo Mountain, known as Jones Preserve.

Only through your continued support can we ensure that these properties meet stringent land trust conservation and legal requirements, as well as climate change and habitat crisis criteria. Some of you have even generously donated the land itself to make these acquisitions possible. We are extremely grateful to those who have contributed funds to acquire them!

With our staff of two, and eleven-member board, and a cadre of able volunteers, we have risen to this year's challenges, including co-leading with OSI the successful 11th hour effort for Town of Kingston to rescind their prior Negative Declaration of environmental impacts by a project which threatens the Bluestone Wild Forest and Oteora Lake. There is always much to do, and we aspire to have more hands on-deck to meet the demand. **Today we turn to you again for help. We are grateful to receive your widespread financial support.** In the coming year we anticipate:

- Significant new land protection acquisitions!
- Expanded trails at our Israel Wittman Sanctuary
- Supporting an acquisition that creates the most important land conservation and trail connection/expansion in the Bluestone Wild Forest in decades, collaborating with longtime WLC partners at Open Space Institute, NYSDEC and local bike and trail stakeholders.
- Continued robust programming, including our monthly "First Saturdays on the Trail," and the beloved Longyear Farm Day
- Our collaborative Winter Film Series, which last year drew record crowds to "Project Drawdown" Climate Change-themed evenings
- Continued advocacy for the Bluestone Wild Forest, and stopping construction + debris dumping in our neighborhoods

Please join us at our preserves, at our programs, in our advocacy efforts, and together, out on the Ashokan Rail Trail. We'll be glad if you do – and we think you will be too. **Donate Today.**

We thank you with great joy, appreciation and big hugs.

Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,



Maxanne Resnick
Executive Director



Kevin Smith
Board Chair



L to R: Maxanne Resnick, Chris White, Ulster County, Kevin Smith