



WOODSTOCK LAND CONSERVANCY

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*Stewardship and
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Dear Friend,

What's there to lose? A lot.

Land here is under a level of development pressure never seen before. The Town of Woodstock is considering a development moratorium and currently is working to define it. In recent months, with Woodstock's Lasher Funeral Home property for sale, along with the rapid increase in area property purchases and the pressing need for affordable housing, we're engaged in community discussions about these issues. As a 33-year-old community-based land trust our roots are deep. And while our core mission is the protection of our area's natural resources, we care deeply about our community and ensuring its balanced development. We know that by working together to face these challenges we can find the right balance, one that helps retain our beloved community, in all its humane, generous, outdoorsy and creative glory. And we welcome new and old residents alike in this effort to keep what we love.

Please donate today so our work can continue.

Some change can be good – it's a joy to be outdoors, and maskless! When COVID first appeared, we were determined to maintain our work, with full staffing and with as many programs and activities as possible. This was the time that our community needed us to give them safe opportunities outdoors. We worked tirelessly to keep outdoor public preserves available to all of you. This included stewarding the resplendent Ashokan Rail Trail, keeping it open in those early months, with a small cadre of loyal volunteers. And our Sloan Gorge Preserve was also front and center on people's itineraries. Coincidentally, we had a grant to work with Tahawus Trails to create some fantastic trail features while handling a growing stream of increased visitors. As we write, we have recently expanded our parking area there.

In recent months the proposed 850 Route 28 pre-cast concrete and steel manufacturing plant has renewed its push for Town of Kingston Planning Board review. From the beginning of this review, over two years ago, we have maintained that this project is incompatible with the 3,000-acre State Bluestone Wild Forest which surrounds it, and we remain opposed to its placement here. Town residents and users of the beloved Bluestone Wild Forest alike have great concerns about this project degrading its surroundings, with issues of increased noise, concern for water quantity and quality, large truck traffic entering and exiting on Route 28 and the applicant's intention to excavate part of a historic quarry wall that is located on their property. Have you walked lately in this beautiful forest, with its peaceful lakes, miles of trails and abundant wildlife? Can you imagine it changed forever? We welcome your participation in our efforts and further information is available at www.saveonteoralake.org

Finally, last year our typical in-person programming was put on hiatus and we forged ahead virtually, with our annual Film Series and the launch of the Woodstock Pollinator Pathway, both with fabulous collaborators and to great response.

Your generous support, last year and now, continues to expand and empower our work. We have just moved into a Woodstock office, the first one in the organization's 33-year history, and on June 23rd we welcome a Stewardship and Land Acquisition staff person, Melissa Peterson. She will help us maintain the lands we own and the easements we oversee, while seeking acquisition opportunities to support conservation of our area's beauty and biodiversity, particularly in the face of changing weather and habitat conditions.

This community has supported us for so many years. And to our new arrivals, we are excited to meet you, to welcome you into all the important work that we and our partners accomplish here, and to continue the vibrancy of Woodstock and the Eastern Catskills well into the future.

All of you are our partners and we thank you for your interest and your support.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maxanne Resnick". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Maxanne Resnick
Executive Director