



For Immediate Release

Killingworth, CT-- As the annual Cranberry Harvest reaps berries this season, the Killingworth Land Trust (KLCT) will reap benefits from their neighbors. Doug and Irene Buttendorf, of Killingworth, have deeded over 23 acres to the KLCT. Properly developing their 47 acres of this environmentally sensitive area has been, and remains to be, a high priority of the Buttendorfs while designing the new Cranberry Meadows' subdivision which includes only 7 home sites. This amount of open space equals approximately 50 percent of the development parcel which substantially exceeds the current requirements.

This "Private Road Conservation Subdivision" offers protection to the wildlife and the rare and endangered species of plants around the bog. The land deeded includes two vernal pools, a unique and highly valued peat bog, and a timber area surrounding the bog. Cranberry Meadows will be a unique neighborhood of seven custom homes built on the wooded countryside that abuts this 100-acre unique natural area known as Pond Meadow Natural Area. Each home accesses a private equestrian/walking trail that offers views of meadows, woods, antique woods road and the only operating cranberry harvesting farm left in Connecticut. Homes will be custom designed, featuring wood roofs, natural materials and special landscape designs to ensure that they blend in harmony with this sensitive and natural environment.

This additional contribution of open space more than doubles the amount of space owned by the KLCT in the bog area. The 2001 partial purchase of the bog was made possible through fund raising efforts and an endowment fund. The fund is maintained by the KLCT for the bog's upkeep and as a buffer fund to purchase surrounding open space based on availability. The Pond Meadow Natural Area Committee has been formed to restore and maintain the habitat and to facilitate the use of the area for research and public programs. The KLCT offers an effective way for Killingworth to preserve natural assets

In addition to the recent transfer of land from the Buttendorfs, the KLCT has also been awarded a \$17,000 grant from the State of Connecticut's Department Of Environmental Protection, through the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). The LIP provides technical advice and cost assistance to landowners for habitat management resulting in the protection, restoration, reclamation, enhancement, and maintenance of habitats that support fish, wildlife and plant species considered at risk. This program is made possible through grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which recognizes the need to help states with the stewardship of their at-risk species. Good stewardship can slow or reverse the decline of some species. The LIP funds up to 75% of the cost of an approved project and the landowner and/or partnering conservation group must provide the matching funds and/or in-kind services.

The Buttendorfs hope to continue to work in tandem with KLCT to secure the conservation of this environmental 'gem'. It is their hope that Killingworth residents will view the sanctuary of plants, wildlife and the beautiful homes of Cranberry Meadows naturally blending together in this new 7-home neighborhood.

For further information

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