

## **Westbrook Land Conservation Trust**

The Land Trust has been raising money to help close the funding gap for the town purchase of the Toby Hill VII property for open space. The Trust promised to match up to \$5,000 in donations.

Toby Hill VIII constitutes 146.72 acres of undeveloped upland which will contribute to the open space greenway plan the town has been working on for years. It is contiguous to WLCT holdings Toby Hill Chase of 26.04 acres and Timberland of 14.7 acres. Preserving it will protect water resources at the headwaters of Trout Brook and provide recreational access; not developing it will reduce future costs to the town for maintenance of roads and bridges.

There was an article in the Harbor News, a mass email and multiple FaceBook posts. So far, 10 donors have given \$810.66 and the Trust continues to look for more. The Facebook page has had 310 visits, 26 likes and 15 shares since the announcement. The hope is that the likes can be converted to donations.

The Land Trust owns 31 land parcels totaling just under 141 acres as well as the conservation rights to an additional 51 acres. Founded in 1968, we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

The Land Trust always needs new members and board members to be responsible for these properties. If you appreciate the protected open space we preserve and are interested in helping us to maintain it, please consider joining the Land Trust. In addition there are plenty of opportunities for more involvement including participating in clean ups, helping with our newsletter, stewarding our parcels, and becoming an active board member. As a member, you will receive our newsletter, be invited to our special events including hikes and programs with speakers, and get updates on important environmental issues such as Preserving Plum Island and land use in Westbrook.

If you are interested in joining the Land Trust write or email us at:

**Westbrook Land Conservation Trust**

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**Westbrook, CT 06498**