

CHARLOTTE CONSERVATION FUND - APPLICATION

Applicant: Town of Charlotte
Address: P.O. Box 119, Charlotte, VT 05445

Contact Person:

Project Name: Burns Property
Landowner: Town of Charlotte

Number of Acres: 22 (conserved); 54 (total)

Date: June 7, 2016

Amount of Charlotte Conservation Fund money requested: \$10,000

Total conservation project cost: \$ 14,750

Percent of town contribution to total conservation cost: 68%

Project Summary:

The Burns property was purchased by the Town in 2000, with funding assistance from the Vermont Land Trust and the Preservation Trust of Vermont. The Town is donating a conservation easement on 22 acres of clayplain forest to the Vermont Land Trust. Project costs are being split between the Town and VLT. This application is for the Town's share of those costs.

Nature of your Organization:

Not applicable

Date Reviewed (attach comments):

Charlotte Conservation Commission – May 24, 2016

Charlotte Recreation Committee – April 7, 2015

Charlotte Trails Committee – March 10, 2015

Charlotte Land Trust – March 9, 2015

Date Approved-

Charlotte Selectboard

SUPPLEMENTAL CONSERVATION FUND APPLICATION

1. **PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** Describe the property and attach any relevant site plans, photographs, deed restrictions, planning/zoning approvals, etc.

The Burns property is 54 acres between Greenbush Road and Route 7, on the southern edge of the West Charlotte Village. The property is a mix of open fields, clayplain forests and wetlands, with an open area abutting Route 7 that was the site of the former Flea Market. There is a well on the property that serves off site users. There is a septic area in the western portion of the property, as well as several mapped areas for future septic disposal.

2. **RESOURCES:** Describe – e.g. habitat, wetlands, scenic, streams, productive soils, historic sites, public access

The principal ecological resources on the property are within the clayplain forests and associated wetlands, as well as existing and potential public access/trails/recreational use. The clayplain forest has a high diversity of plant species and includes

rare and uncommon ferns and sedges. A headwater tributary of Thorp Brook is also present in its natural condition. An old farm road provides for public access and a part of the 250 Anniversary Loop Trail is located on the property, as well. Potential for additional trail access is also present.

3. ***PUBLIC BENEFIT:*** Describe the public benefit to be derived from this project and the future use of the land. This should include any proposed trail easements, agricultural uses, recreational uses, scenic preservation, municipal uses, etc.

The area to be conserved on the Burns property has high public benefit. The clayplain forest is recognized as an excellent example of a once predominant landscape feature in the Champlain Valley. The potential for public access and the feasibility of trails on this property fitting into a larger trail network near the West Charlotte Village also make this an important property with numerous aspects of public benefit.

4. ***PROJECT STATUS:*** Describe the status of the project, including the timetable for completion and closing dates. Attach any relevant documents such as Purchase and Sale Agreement, appraisal etc

Closing for the easement is estimated to be by June 30, 2015.

Funding Plan:

Expenses

Stewardship Endowment	\$7000
Closing Costs	1000
Mapping and Digitizing	850
Baseline Documentation	1300
<u>Legal Drafting and Project Management</u>	<u>4600</u>
Total	\$14,750

Income

Town	\$10,000
<u>VLT</u>	<u>4750</u>
Total	\$14,750

5. ***CONSERVATION FUND ASSISTANCE:*** What specific use will be made of an allocation from the Conservation Fund? Why is an allocation considered necessary for the project's viability? Is an allocation requested in one lump sum or over a period of years?

The allocation from the Conservation Fund will go project expenses, as noted above.

**To achieve community conservation goals through non-regulatory means, the Conservation Fund Advisory Board suggests funding standard projects at levels up to 20% of total project costs.

6. ***LEVERAGE:*** What is the value of any neighborhood or other matching contributions to the project?

Not applicable.