

From: East Montpelier Conservation Fund Advisory Committee
To: East Montpelier Selectboard
Date: May 24, 2016
Subject: Purchase of permanent trail easement, former Lylehaven Farm Property

All four members of the Conservation Fund Advisory Committee met May 24, 2016 to review the proposal by the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) for conservation of the former Lylehaven Farm (now Fairmont Farm) property. Specifically, VLT is requesting \$6000 from the East Montpelier Conservation Fund for purchase of a permanent trail easement along Drake Road. The easement will have several important benefits to the town:

- It will allow public access along designated trail corridors.
- It will provide a main corridor on the rail bed for year-round access of non-motorized recreation, as well as seasonal snowmobile use.
- It will be a critical link in the Cross Vermont Trail.
- It will be a key element in VLT's securing substantial funds for overall conservation (purchase of development rights) of 361 acres of the valuable, active farmland.

For these reasons, we unanimously recommend that the Selectboard give its support for the project by providing the requested financial assistance of \$6000.

EAST MONTPELIER CONSERVATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Brian Lusignan
Charles Johnson
Michael Dworkin
Arthur Chickering