

Student Members of the Board of the Colchester Land Trust

The Board of the Colchester Land Trust ("the Board") recognizes that today's youth are the future leaders and stewards of our natural spaces. Young people will have increasing influence on public policy, land use planning, funding and legislation that affect the environment. Therefore, the Board acknowledges its responsibility to engage and train young people in the work of land conservation and stewardship. Student board members will be one avenue to expand our engagement with younger generations.

To provide continuity of information and increase participation with Colchester youth, the Board shall seat one high school student from the Senior class and one student from the Junior class to serve as Student Members to the Board of the Colchester Land Trust. The Student Members will participate in Board discussions in public session and ask questions of those presenting to the Board, to the same extent as all members. The Student Members shall neither attend nor participate in executive sessions, negotiation sessions, or other sessions for which the Board can exclude members of the public. Student Members may neither make motions nor vote on motions

The responsibilities of each Student Member to the Board are as follows:

1. To review public Board meeting materials that are delivered to all members prior to all regular meetings;
2. To attend all open sessions of all regular meetings of the Board the Colchester Land Trust.
3. To contribute to the discussion of items of the agenda, as appropriate and as requested by Board members.
4. To communicate information and opinions from Colchester youth to the Board and from the Board to other resident youths;
5. Once a Board decision is made, to assist (as appropriate) in informing Colchester youth about the decision and in its implementation in the Town; and
6. For the Senior Student Member only: to provide a written year-end report to the Board and to transfer relevant materials and information to the then rising Senior Member.

The responsibilities of the Board to each Student Member are as follows:

1. To meet with the Student Members at the beginning of the school year to discuss responsibilities and participation;
2. To distribute public Board meeting packets and other information to each Student Member in the same manner as all Board members;

3. To engage with student members in the meetings.

Qualifications for Student Members

1. Resident of Colchester;
2. Junior or Senior standing in high school
3. Profess an interest in land preservation, environmental science, or other conservation related fields of study.
4. Demonstrate an ability to commit time for Board meetings and Land Trust activities.
5. Demonstrate behavior that will honor the reputation of the Colchester Land Trust.

Selection of Student Members

1. The members of the Colchester Land Trust shall vote to elect the Student Member(s) from interested students no later than the end of the previous school year. Nominations will be brought to the full Board from an ad-hoc Selection Committee based upon completed applications submitted by students.
2. One Student Member shall be from the Junior class and one shall be from the Senior class. Election shall be for a two-year term, and when the Student Member for the Junior class continues to serve the following year as the Student Member from the Senior Class, the members of the Trust shall elect only one Student Member from the then-Sophomore class to serve the following year as the Junior class Student Member.

Removal from the Board

1. Student Member(s) may be removed by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the Board of the Colchester Land Trust for the following reasons:
 - a. Missing more than two meetings of the Board within one academic year (September through June) if recommended for removal by the Student Member Liaison.
 - i. In the event either Student Member misses more than two meetings of the Board in one academic year (September through June), the Board Student Member Liaison shall meet with such Student Member and discuss the circumstances surrounding such absences. Following this meeting, at the discretion of the Board President, the Board President may call for a vote to remove the Student Member due to poor attendance.
 - b. Behavior that reflects poorly on the Colchester Land Trust as determined by the Board.
 - c. Any other reason, that after discussion by the Board or a representative sub-committee of the Board, is deemed inappropriate for a Board Member.

In the event of a recall or removal, another Student member from the same class as the departing Student Member may be seated.