

**Aquidneck Land Trust's  
23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting Speaking Program  
6:00pm-7:50pm, February 7, 2013  
Atlantic Beach Club**

- I. Welcome - 5 minutes – Linda Ujifusa (start at 6:45pm sharp after buffet)

**Slide #1 Aquidneck Land Trust's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, February 7, 2013, Atlantic Beach Club, Middletown (with logos of all sponsors, Atlantic Beach Club at the top, included on the slide as well)**

Welcome and thank you for attending the Aquidneck Land Trust's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting. I'm Linda Ujifusa, the Land Trust's Board Chair, and I'm delighted to see so many of you here tonight.

I hope you enjoyed the wonderful dinner provided by the Atlantic Beach Club. For the past 10 years, they have generously provided this space and dinner for the Aquidneck Land Trust's Annual Meeting. We thank the Atlantic Beach Club for being such strong and long-time supporter of the Land Trust.

We are also grateful for all of our generous Annual Meeting sponsors: the Atlantic Beach Club; Narragansett Engineering, Inc.; Newport Vineyards; Greenvale Vineyards; Russell Morin Fine Catering; Gustave White Sotheby's International Realty; Northeast Engineers; F.L. Putnam Investment Management Company; CDMI; Carolann Doherty Brown and the Brown Group-UBS Financial; Campo & Company Events; and the Newport Daily News.

Tonight, we not only look back and celebrate the work of the Aquidneck Land Trust this past fiscal year but we also look forward and I'm happy to report your Land Trust remains strong, steadfast and successful.

I urge you to review our 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report available here tonight. It chronicles a truly remarkable year.

Now we will enter the business session of the Annual Meeting. I am pleased to introduce David Thalmann, ALT's Director of Finance and Administration presenting for Richard Bauchspies, ALT's Treasurer, who will give the finance report for the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2012.

**Slide #2 David Thalmann, Director of Finance & Administration**

*Linda leaves the podium, Richard arrives.*

Thanks Linda.

On behalf of the Treasurer who couldn't make it this evening, it's my pleasurable task to deliver the FINANCE REPORT....a good story to tell.

- II. Business Session – 20 minutes – David Thalmann and Mary Bush-Brown
  - a) Finance Report – 10 minutes – David Thalmann

*David delivers comments based on following slides...*

### **Slide #3 FY 2011 Public Support & Revenue**

During the most recent fiscal year which ended September 30, 2012, the Land Trust maintained a diversified support base as it has in prior years. Public support and other revenue totaled \$2.1 million broken down in the graph behind me.

The release of restricted net assets for land conservation related costs comprised 55% of total public support and revenue. In descending order, the balance was spread among grants, investment income, general donations and the annual appeal, special events and membership dues.

Annual appeal donations exceeded budget in fiscal year 2012 and surpassed fiscal year 2011 by 7%.

Total membership revenue finished the 2012 fiscal year 9% better than budget and was 13% better than last year. The number of ALT members reached a high of 1,400.

Each and every dollar ALT receives is critical to the ongoing progress of carrying out the mission of the organization which is to preserve the quality of life for the benefit of all in the Aquidneck Island communities. Please know the Land Trust is sincerely appreciative of the financial support it receives, especially in the difficult economic environment.

### **Slide #4 FY 2011 Expenses**

In order that the public support received by the Land Trust is responsibly invested in its mission, ALT has a very detailed, thorough budget process.

Fiscal year 2012 total expenses were \$1.7 million.

ALT's fundraising challenges to support its conservation easement transactions and also meet the Board approved strategic plan goals were as significant in fiscal year 2012 as they have been in recent years when ALT's acquisition activity has been robust. Nevertheless, I'm pleased to report ALT's careful cash management and healthy cash position has enabled the organization to meet its expense obligations.

### **Slide #5 Stewardship Endowment**

During fiscal year 2012 ALT renamed its Stewardship Endowment Fund the Marcella Clark McCormack Stewardship Endowment Fund in acknowledgement of the receipt of the initial distribution of a very generous bequest to ALT from the Estate of Marcella Clark McCormack and the Marcella Clark McCormack Newport Trust.

As the slide shows, this Fund has grown from an initial \$10,000 donation in 2001 to \$3.6 million at the end of December. Based on the Board approved financial model, ALT currently has adequate funding to cover its existing stewardship obligations. Moreover, the fund continues to grow with each new conservation easement transaction.

### **Slide #6 Three Year Funding Plan**

Starting in 2007, ALT's began estimating, no less than annually, its three-year capital funding plan was developed a number of years ago to identify the capital needed to execute a number of projects.

We are pleased to report that ALT (1) met its required funding goal to complete the Sakonnet Greenway Trail and (2) completed the funding of the Board mandated, multi-year annual contributions to the Stewardship Endowment Fund.

Now ALT is focused on identifying the ongoing capital needed to protect open space and to increase the Merritt Neighborhood Fund Grant program to a targeted goal.

As of December 31, 2012, total cash to be raised for the fiscal years 2013, 2014 and 2015 is projected to be \$2,106,028.

It must be highlighted that the \$1.9 million of estimated three year land preservation costs is a net number after applying the current balance in the land preservation fund and approved outstanding grants for existing Board

approved projects to the projected \$6.4 million of possible land preservation projects.

Summary Closing Remarks:

ALT's overall financial condition is strong. ALT continues to operate in accordance with the nationally recognized standards and practices required for land trust accreditation which ALT was awarded in July 2010.

Thank you. Now please welcome Mary Bush-Brown, Member of the Land Trust's Board Governance Committee.

**Slide #7 Mary Bush Brown, Board Governance Committee**

*David leaves podium, Mary arrives.*

b) Board Governance Report – 10 minutes – Mary

1. Outgoing Trustees

**Slide #8 List of Outgoing Trustees**

On behalf of the entire organization, I would like to thank our three outgoing Trustees: Holly Janney, Nannette Herrick and myself. These individuals each provided the maximum of 3 two-year terms, a total of 6 years each, to our Board of Trustees. Please join me in thanking these special people for their enormous contributions to the Land Trust and our community.

2. Renewing Trustees

**Slide #9 List of Trustees Renewing for Another Two-Year Term**

I would like to thank the following Trustees for their willingness to renew for another two-year term: Richard Bauchspies, Jameson Chace, Katherine Gagliano, Kim Herrlinger, Chandler Lyell, Bettie Pardee, Annie Sherman and George Thurston.

May I have a motion that these people be accepted for another two-year term?

*Motion made.*

May I ask for a second?

*Seconded.*

All in favor?

*Vote.*

The motion passes. Thank you.

3. New Trustees

**Slide #10 List of New Trustees**

The members of the Land Trust's Board Governance Committee have done an outstanding job identifying and recruiting three new terrific individuals to join the Land Trust's Board of Trustees: Drew Coleman, Perry Fagan and Taylor Rock

May I have a motion that the new nominees be accepted as presented?

*Motion made.*

May I ask for a second?

*Seconded.*

All in favor of the nominations?

*Vote.*

The motion passes. Thank you.

4. Slate of Officers

**Slide #11 Slate of Proposed Officers**

I am pleased to present the following slate of proposed officers for the Land Trust's Board of Trustees for 2012: Linda L. Ujifusa, Esq., Chair; Annie Sherman, Vice Chair; Richard E. Bauchspies, Jr., CFA, Treasurer; and Taylor Rock, Secretary.

Pursuant to our bylaws, may I ask the members of the Land Trust's 2012 Board of Trustees to vote. May I have a motion from a member of the Board of Trustees that the slate be accepted as presented?

*Motion made.*

May I ask for a second?

*Seconded.*

All in favor of the nominations?

*Vote.*

The motion passes. Thank you.

**Slide #12 2012 Board of Trustees and Officers (slide listing all)**

Welcome to the 2012 Land Trust Board of Trustees

May I have a motion to adjourn the business session of the annual meeting?

*Motion made.*

May I ask for a second?

*Seconded.*

All in favor?

*Vote.*

The motion passes. Thank you.

Now please welcome Chuck Allott, Interim Executive Director of the Aquidneck Land Trust.

**Slide #13 Charles Allott., Esq., Interim Executive Director**

*Mary leaves podium, Chuck arrives.*

III. Executive Director's Report – 20 minutes – Charles Allott

a) **Slide #14 Chuck's Welcoming Remarks (use with staff photo)**

Thank you Mary. Thank you all for coming this evening. It is inspiring to see so many people come out on a cold February night to show their support for land conservation on Aquidneck Island. I don't know all of you, but hope to meet many of you tonight. Also, our doors are always open at ALT and we want to hear from you on what we do so stop in or call us.

I want to thank the Atlantic Beach Club and Kyriakides family for being simply amazing to us over years - donating this spectacular venue, great food and wonderful service - and also our other sponsors for tonight meeting.

As the Interim Executive Director, in preparing for these remarks, at first I felt a little a bit conflicted.

On the one hand I want to express my sentiment the universal sentiment in this room tonight that Ted was an amazing leader for the last 12 years and that he will greatly be missed. Positive, energetic, charismatic. For us he was a great conservationist and fundraiser, alike. He had the vision and skills to put a complex conservation transaction together and then find the various funding partners to make it a reality. Hawaii's gain is our loss.

On the other hand, as a founding board member of ALT, I want to also express my belief that this organization will successfully move forward without him.

Why? Because all along, even before Ted, there were visionary leaders of this organization that made ALT flourish – that took us to the next step in our progression – that created the foundation for the next leaders to build upon. We moved on successfully after those leaders and we will do so now. Also, I feel confident that all of those leaders would say that it has really never about “him” or “her” but always about "we" and "us".

Because it's a community of committed people that allows this organization to be so successful:

- It's the dedicated Board of Trustees that guides this organization with a steady hand and keeps us on task;
- It's the skilled and passionate Staff, that carry out the daily details of pursuing land conservation mission;
- It's the wise and seasoned conservation-minded Board of Advisors who give us their amazing expert advice and common sense;

- It's the family of concerned Landowners who sacrificed the profits from developers to create conservation easements on their land thereby saving its conservation and ecological values for our benefit and that of future generations;
- It's the generous ALT Donors, individuals and foundations alike, whose continued vision and financial support makes this all possible;
- It's the Island's three municipalities that fund open space every year in the face of mounting budgetary constraints,
- It's the local media outlets that take our mission to the people,
- It's the professionals – lawyers, accountants, teachers, doctors, chefs – who share their expertise;
- It's the business owners – who have donated or discounted their goods and services or sponsor events;
- It's the college students who intern with us and the younger students who become “young members” and volunteer with us;
- It's the Boy Scout Troops who put up our trail markers on SGC and barn owl boxes on our conserved properties and do other field projects;
- and last but not least it's you, our members - the core of our community - who show our funders that we have wide community support, who vote pro-Open Space in elections, who support us in all the unseen, unrecognized ways that keep us strong.

This whole community together embracing the mission of conserving open space and the natural character of this wonderful island and thereby keeping it a great place to live, work, and raise our children. That is what really propels this organization forward – this ALT community.

ALT is much more than any one person - and can go through leadership changes to become even stronger.

Being a sports fan, when I think of organizational changes, I immediately think of the Patriots. Remember that before there was Brady, there was Drew Bledsoe, the Patriots successful quarterback in his own right who went down in the middle of a season with a career threatening injury. We all thought that the Patriots were washed up when Coach Belichick decided to bring in his completely unknown, third string quarterback – a 6th round draft choice out of Michigan – where he was, oh by the way, a backup Quarterback - to take over the reins of this powerhouse NFL Franchise. Well need I say more! How did that change in leadership work out – well, they could have been a bit better this season.

Now don't get me wrong. I am not implying that I am the Tom Brady of land conservation. I am only saying that organizations move on and quite often get stronger for the change and transition they go through. So during this time of

leadership transition you may ask yourself what does this organization do going forward? How will it make its way? Does the phone ring anymore at ALT?

The answer is we have already started to move forward with our mission and plan - were doing it! - And yes the phone rings a lot! – We take Ted’s successes and strategies and with the ALT Community I mentioned earlier, behind us we are and will move forward with even more energy and determination than before:

- We aggressively pursue conservation projects that will protect our drinking water resources - holding back development - within our nine island watersheds.
- We help farmers not only to preserve their farms - or at least portions of their farms -but also work towards making farming and local food production and sales a sustainable business model on Aquidneck Island.
- We ensure that legal protections are in place to ensure that the Island’s wide variety of park lands remain as park lands for future generations.
- We work with our young friends in our schools to make sure that the next generations of leaders understand the importance of land conservation and stewardship;
- We continue to preserve the iconic natural landscapes and scenic corridors that make this island such a beautiful place to live; and
- We look for new strategic opportunities to fulfill our mission - never before thought of.

I am not certain who will be at the helm of this organization going forward, but I feel confident that with this community to fall back on, the next permanent Executive Director will succeed – will become a Tom Brady of Land Conservation - in fulfilling ALT’s Mission and Strategic Plan.

**Slide #15 Conservation Successes in Fiscal Year 2012 (use with scenic photo of the Corey/Sears Farm)**

So that is my vision of how we will move forward. Now I will talk about the “ALT Community’s” past accomplishments. The Land Trust had another outstanding year in Fiscal Year 2012 running from October 2011 through September 2012, and that is good news for all of us who love Aquidneck Island.

While the land trust is best known for its land conservation projects, which I will discuss in a minute, it also oversees many other community outreach projects that help broaden our base of supporters.

**Slide #16 2012 Land Matters Walk & Talk Series: Morton Park; Sakonnet Greenway Trail; and Oakland Forest and Meadow Preserve Tour (use with picture of one of our tours)**

With the “Land Matters Walk and Talk Series” we actually get people out into nature on our conserved parcels to . . . well . . . talk about nature! We believe that this type of hands on education is the most powerful form of environmental education. We did three of these nature talks in 2012 one in each of the island communities. We will do so again in 2013.

**Slide #17 2012 Conservation Speaker Series: *Last Call at the Oasis* with newportFILM; *Green Eating* by Casey Riley and Jonathan Cambra of Newport Harbor Corporation/Newport Restaurant Group; and *Nature as Nurturer: Protecting Land to Protect Our Health* by Dr. Robert A. Carrellas (use with pictures of all “speakers”)**

ALT has another environmental education series called the “Conservation Speaker Series” where we bring in outside conservation speakers and important environmental movies to our Aquidneck Island community to deepen our dialogue about land conservation.

- In 2012, in partnership with Newport Film, we had a premier showing at Jane Pickens Theater of the movie, *Last Call at the Oasis*, a powerful movie about the global shortage of clean water.
- Later in the year, as part of this series, we had chefs Casey Riley and Jonathan Cambra of Newport Restaurant Group presented an interactive seminar on “Green Eating.”
- And our last speaker was our own Board Member, Dr. Bob Carrellas, who presented a very unique and interesting discussion on “Nature as Nurturer: Protecting Land to Protect Our Health”.

In 2013 we again will be having what I believe to be a very interesting line up of speakers that will include:

- A panel discussion on “Why local food matters”,
- A discussion by a watershed expert on the “signs of a Healthy Watershed,” which signs we will see from our watershed conservation project,
- And lastly, a presentation by a local artist and activist on the use of art to focus on nature and environmental causes.

More details to follow in our Good Dirt and on our website.

**Slide #18 2012 Merritt Neighborhood Fund Awards (use with picture of Merritt project, a community garden one)**

Named after ALT's visionary past President Peter Merritt, ALT has for 13 years implemented a project known as the Merritt Neighborhood Fund.

The purpose of the Merritt Fund is to provide neighborhood and community groups with modest funding to support their own conservation and land use projects at the local level so as to strengthen community identity and conservation efforts. In 2012, 14 grant awards, totaling over \$7,000, were given to various organizations for local conservation projects such as neighborhood parks and community gardens. We will be offering similar grants this year.

It's heartening to hear one example of one of many success stories for the Merritt Fund. A couple years ago we gave start-up money to a church community garden which now is up and running at full capacity and supplies soup kitchens for the homeless. It just shows how our mission can have far-reaching positive outcomes.

**Slide #19 Scenic Ocean Drive Now More Scenic, Utility Poles and Lines Removed, Newport (use with before and after photos)**

We all know that it is the scenic beauty of Aquidneck Island that makes it the desirable place it is to live, work and visit. We should never take it for granted.

With this inherent beauty in mind, in January 2012, as part of ALT's Newport Conservation Initiative, we were very pleased to complete our project of having the last remaining overhead utility poles and lines removed along the coastal stretch of Ocean Drive, from Bellevue Avenue to Castle Hill.

These before and after photos say it all - one of our most iconic coastal scenic corridors is now free of any visual obstructions from above-ground utility poles or lines. We cannot thank the project benefactors, Tricia and Philip Bilden, enough for making this all possible.

**Slide #20 ALT Completes 2012 Aquidneck Island's Conserved Lands Mapping Project (use with photo of island wide map from study)**

In April 2012, ALT completed its Aquidneck Island's Conserved Lands Mapping Project. The slide shows the parcel-based map that was created from this study which was later mailed out to Aquidneck Island residents

and businesses in an attractive color pamphlet. Just last week Sophia had a landowner come in the other day to talk about his property with a tattered copy of this map in his hand. So I guess it's getting used.

This study demonstrates that in 2000, about 15% of our island's land area was conserved and that by 2012, that percentage has grown to 20.6% of our island. While not all of that is ALT conserved land, a good part of it is (2400 acres on 68 properties).

However, before we get too complacent, Manhattan has about 19% of its land area preserved, so we still have a lot more to do.

**Slide #21 Conservation Collaboration Agreement Signed with the East Bay Met School (use with Earth Day photo of students doing cleanup)**

For the last several years we have entered into year-long conservation collaboration agreements with a specific community school whereby we offer the students discounted ALT memberships and work with teachers and students on projects which bring the classroom outside.

In 2012, ALT worked with the East Bay MET School. Under this Conservation Collaboration Agreement, the students had to fundraise for their ALT Memberships and perform Earth Day projects. I am happy to say that the students met all of the terms of their Agreement. Way to go East Bay Met!

This year we will again be choosing a school to partner with in our Young Friends Partnerships.

Now on to our land conservation projects - In Fiscal Year 2012, ALT preserved over 66 acres of farm, forest, watershed, park, and open space lands.

**Slide #22 Dey Property Conserved, Watershed, Wildlife Habitat, Scenic and Agricultural Values, 18.83 +/- Acres, Middletown (use with Dey map from Good Dirt)**

In November 2011, the Aquidneck Land Trust acquired a perpetual Conservation Easement from Philip S. Dey on almost 19 acres of wooded property located around the head waters of Paradise Brook off Fayal Lane in Middletown.

The Dey land is within the Nelson Pond Watershed, and therefore was identified as critical for watershed protection purposes by ALT's recent prioritization and mapping project for all watershed parcels. We call those top priority parcels in the watershed "Tier One Parcels". This is a Tier One Parcel.

Regarding the project, Phil Dey stated, *"I grew up in North Brunswick, New Jersey in the early 1950s and 60s. I saw first-hand how uncontrolled development destroyed beautiful farms and natural vistas. My children, Noah and Avery, and I want to honor my parents, Philip S. Dey and Mary Gray Avery Dey, and their values while also protecting some of the crucial fabric of our community. It was truly rewarding to be part of something that will benefit current and future generations."*

**Slide #23 Welch Farm Conserved, Agricultural, Scenic, Water Resource and Wildlife Habitat Values, 14.25 +/- Acres, Portsmouth (use with Welch map from Good Dirt)**

Also in November 2011, the Aquidneck Land Trust acquired a perpetual Conservation Easement from C. William Welch on a 14.25-acre horse farm and wooded property off Mitchell's Lane in Portsmouth adjacent to other ALT conserved properties.

About the project, Mr. Welch stated, *"For years, we have benefitted from the terrific conservation work of the Aquidneck Land Trust, especially their extensive bridle trails, so we felt it was time to do our part."*

**Slide #24 Coggeshall School Park and Valley Associates II Conserved, Public Recreation, Scenic, Watershed, and Wildlife Habitat Values, 7.52 +/- Acres, Newport and Middletown (use with Coggeshall School playground area photo)**

In February 2012, in a much different type of project, ALT, with the City of Newport, placed conservation easements on otherwise unprotected park and playground land in the densely populated neighborhoods of Evarts Street and Van Zandt Avenue in Newport. I think the aerial slide shows just how important this park was in this neighborhood. As this project shows, ALT's mission goes beyond preserving rural parcels and reaches into the neighborhoods where most of our island residents live.

**Slide #25 Corey/Sears Farm Conserved, Water Resource, Agricultural, Scenic and Wildlife Habitat Values, 28.69 +/- Acres, Middletown (use with Corey/Sears Farm map from Good Dirt)**

On September 25, 2012, ALT and the Town of Middletown partnered to successfully acquire a perpetual Conservation Easement on over 28 acres of farm land from the Corey and Sears families. The land is off Wyatt Road and has the Maidford River running through it. As the slide shows, vitally important conservation values were preserved including protecting habitat for endangered wildlife species, such as the Northern Leopard Frog and Barn Owl. In addition, the property is contiguous to other ALT conserved properties, thereby expanding our Sakonnet Greenway.

On behalf of her family, Mary Corey said: "*My family has farmed the property since about 1939, and my parents would be pleased to know that it will remain farmland and open space,*"

**Slide #26 Campaign to Save St. Mary's Land, Watershed, Scenic, Agricultural, Recreational and Wildlife Habitat Values, 70 + Acres, Portsmouth (use with scenic St. Mary's photo)**

At our 2011 Annual Meeting we reported on an Option Agreement that ALT had signed with Saint Mary's Church Portsmouth and the Trustees of the Sarah Gibbs Trust to raise over \$3 million to conserve about 70 critical open space acres between East Main Road and the Saint Mary's Pond Reservoir in Portsmouth.

In late July 2012, the Land Trust and its partners successfully completed the fundraising on this project almost a year ahead of schedule! We all know how spectacular this land is from a scenic standpoint as we all drive by it. But it also contains some other highly important conservation values. Its prime farm land, has significant forestlands that abut the St. Mary's Pond and thereby create a natural watershed buffer (making it a Tier One Parcel) not to mention an important wildlife habitat. Not surprisingly, it has been one of ALT's highest priority parcels since the very beginning of the organization.

ALT is now working on closing this important conservation project within the next 3-4 months.

**Slide #27 Proposal to Conserve and Enhance the Glen, Recreational, Scenic, Historic, Agricultural, Wildlife Habitat and Water Resource Values, 100 +Acres, Portsmouth (use with artistic rendering of proposed waterfront park in place of the school)**

While not a completed project, in February 2012, ALT submitted a proposal to the Town of Portsmouth to conserve and enhance the Glen Farm fields and Elmhurst School property in Portsmouth.

The school which is next to Glen Manor House and right on the Sakonnet River shoreline needs to be torn down in the next year or so. ALT has offered to pay the town a very generous sum of \$1,000,000 towards this demolition cost in exchange for the town granting ALT conservation easements on both the Glen Farm fields and the Elmhurst School parcels – both of which are currently designated as park property but could be developed in the future.

This slide is a rendering done by our board member, Mary Bush Brown, of what the Elmhurst parcel could look like as a waterfront park.

ALT also offered to provide a \$150,000 challenge grant to the Town for restoration of the historic structures within the Glen property.

Virtually all Town committees and organizations have expressed support of ALT's proposal and the Town Council is now considering it. If the Town Council approves the terms of our proposal it would still have to be approved by the Portsmouth Voters.

We very much hope we will be reporting on this as a completed project at next year's meeting.

**Slide #28 ALT's 10 Mile Sakonnet Greenway Trail Completed and Opened to the Public, Middletown and Portsmouth (use with color Sakonnet Greenway Trail map)**

We just entered our new Fiscal Year 2013 in October 2012, and already we are seeing important conservation successes.

On October 26, 2012, Governor Lincoln Chafee and Rhode Island DEM Director Janet Coit came down to participate with Ted in the Grand Opening ceremony to open ALT's newest 5 mile segment of the Sakonnet Greenway Trail. Now at approximately 10 miles, the Trail is Aquidneck Island's longest public nature trail.

The new 5 mile segment, all located on the western side of Mitchell's Lane in Middletown, connects to the previously built 5 mile segment of the trail that runs from The Glen in Portsmouth south to the Newport National Golf Course on the east side of Mitchell's Lane.

ALT publicly thanks the wonderful visionary land owners who allowed for these trail easements over their property thereby laying the legal foundation for our dream of a 10 mile Sakonnet Greenway Trail to

become a reality. These landowners are: F. James Hodges and Sheila H. Hodges; Newport National Golf Club; Newport Vineyards; The Pennfield School; Town of Middletown; Town of Portsmouth; and the van Beuren family. We also thank all who contributed financially to this terrific project.

**Slide #29 Crump Property Conserved, Water Resource, Scenic, and Wildlife Habitat Values, 3.76 +/- Acres, Newport (use with scenic photo of Crump property)**

In November 2012, the Crump family generously donated a perpetual Conservation Easement to ALT as part of ALT's Newport Conservation Initiative, on a strategic 3.7 acre open space property situated within Newport's scenic Ocean Drive corridor and contiguous with other conserved lands and Gooseneck Cove. Look at that slide - is that land spectacular or what?

So for all of these land conservation projects, let me take this opportunity to thank all of these landowners for having the vision to do the right thing with their ecologically important lands – sometimes walking away from hefty offers from developers. Also let's not forget the municipalities - all three represented here tonight - that so often partner with us in conserving open space and thereby ensuring their communities will remain great places! You all make our mission possible. So Thank You.

**Slide #30 –Randall Property, Agriculture, Scenic, Watershed, and Wildlife Habitat Values, 10.5 +/- Acres, Middletown (use with Randall map)**

Tonight, as evidence that ALT's mission will continue to move forward, as we always do at our Annual Meetings, I would like to announce ALT's most recent land conservation accomplishment – today the land trust signed a purchase and sale contract with Peter and Ann Randall for conservation easements on approximately 10½ acres of prime watershed land along Berkeley Avenue in Middletown.

Not only does this property have the Maidford River running right through it, but because of its location in the Maidford River Watershed, it is a Tier One Parcel under our watershed mapping study discussed earlier.

The property is also contiguous with another conserved land, Sweet Berry Farm, thereby expanding our Sakonnet Greenway.

While conservation biology analysis has not yet been completed, the property would seem to have it all: agricultural, scenic, watershed, and wildlife habitat conservation values.

In addition these landowners have generously agreed to grant trail rights over their property should a trail ever be continued into this area.

Allow me to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Randall - the most recent members of our ALT landowner family. Please give them warm applause for both their land conservation vision and actions.

**Slide #31 Green Island Society, (use with list of current members and Tree Hugger image)**

Lastly, I want to recognize the Green Island Society. This is a group of visionary ALT supporters who have made arrangements to honor the Aquidneck Land Trust with planned giving initiatives - that's a nice way of saying that they named the land trust as a bequest recipient in their wills and trusts!

We are truly thankful to this group for their forward-thinking appreciation of our mission and work.

In an effort to recognize their generosity - and any of you who decide to join this group - we will be placing eco-friendly Tree Hugger plaques along the Sakonnet Greenway Trail. Each member of the Green Island Society will have a plaque placed in their honor in the coming year.

Before I leave you for the evening, let me share that my prediction is that Fiscal Year 2013 will be chock full of lasting conservation accomplishments for the Land Trust and our beloved island just like Fiscal Year 2012.

We will continue to succeed because we have a spectacular team, and you, our supporters, are a major and critical member of our green team.

Let me also acknowledge the core of this Green Team – the ALT Staff (please stand): David Thalmann (Director of Finance and Administration), Jessica Pohl (Development Director) Diana Britton (Office Manager), Sophia DeMaio (Stewardship Director) and Courtney Huth (Assistant Development Director), who is out on leave. Thank you for all you do but specifically for helping me during this transition. You've been great.

Now, I invite Linda Ujifusa, our Board Chair, back to the stage.

Thank you.

*Chuck leaves stage and Linda arrives.*

**Slide #32 Linda Ujifusa, Esq., Board Chair**

IV. Chair's Remarks – 10 minutes – Linda Ujifusa

*Linda delivers remarks...*

Good evening. I am Linda Ujifusa. It has been an absolute privilege being Board Chair for the past year. You have seen how much ALT accomplished. Thank you to everyone who made that possible.

As you know, Ted Clement, our incredible Executive Director, left ALT last December for Hawaii, after 12 years of helping to conserve over 2,000 acres of Aquidneck Island. He has left our Island, but his legacy remains in perpetuity.

Just FYI, the Board voted to surprise Ted with a watercolor painting of the Sakonnet Greenway Trail to show our appreciation. Luckily, beloved Newport artist and long-time ALT supporter, Richard Grosvenor, graciously accepted a rather last-minute commission. (I think Richard is here with his wife, Margo). And trouper that he is, Richard insisted on seeing the spot he would be painting - not just paint from photographs. So, I took Richard out on the trail for a 45 minute walk - on the coldest day in December. And as my husband pointed out later, I almost "took Richard out" on the Sakonnet Greenway Trail. Ted loved the gift. Thank you Richard Grosvenor! And Margot – for making Richard dress warmly.

Yes, no doubt Ted is listening to ukulele music and surveying those never changing blue skies and palm trees - and consumed by regret. Ted will miss the beautiful conserved spaces of Aquidneck Island – in all their changing seasonal glories - and he will miss all of you.

Ted often referred to ALT supporters, you here tonight, as "ALT family." And Chuck identified you in his talk. Yes, YOU are ALT Family. And thankfully, all of you remain.

Now, I always thought it odd that businesses boast they "treat you like family." I don't know about your family, but in mine, that would mean: we don't clean up before you visit us, we occasionally insult you to your face and

we routinely ask you for favors and money. Wait, that last thing makes me realize - you really are family.

But, seriously, what “family” ALSO means, both to me personally and to ALT, is that no matter what happens, you are never left to face life’s challenges alone. That is why ALT’s motto, quite rightly, has always been, “Together, saving the Island we love.”

And while the ALT family has met the early challenge to conserve over 2,000 acres, we face another challenge in the next few years: to conserve the next 2,000 acres.

As our 2012 Watershed Study concluded, there are that many acres of Tier I watershed parcels that remain to be conserved to protect our drinking water supplies.

Can we meet that challenge? Of course we can. Did you not just hear Chuck list who was in our family? We have an awesome family. But, let me share some other facts about our ALT Family that I believe make ALT’s future success even more certain.

First, I’m happy to say that as we conduct our nationwide search for a permanent Executive Director, the Board has appointed one of our, “founding fathers” as Interim Executive Director, Mr. Charles (“Chuck”) Allott. Chuck, along with many of you in the audience tonight, helped create the Land Trust, through enormous volunteer energy, vision and hutzpah. Since 1990, Chuck has been active on virtually all of ALT’s committees, as well as the Board of Trustees. Chuck has specialized in real estate and municipal law in private practice, and has been an assistant town solicitor, a town councilperson, and a law school adjunct professor. Chuck stepped in on December 14, 2012, and has been working closely with our talented and experienced staff to make sure all ALT’s important work proceeds uninterrupted. If I may reference the sports analogies you heard earlier, clearly, Chuck is no “third stringer.”

Second, our ALT family is growing. Despite the myriad reasons why many Aquidneck Islanders cannot or do not financially support ALT, our paid memberships have increased over the last year by about 13% and we have about 90 new members – many of whom are the “young members” or next generation of land conservationists for whom we are conserving the land. And we will of course continue our outreach to our “non-young” members as we move forward. Since my name is “Linda,” a name not popular in America since the 1950s, I will certainly be part of that effort. And I urge you to also get the young and not-so young to join the ALT family.

Which reminds me, please take advantage of our NEW automatic renewal option for membership. Now, you can have a “senior moment,” or forget about something, and good things will happen.

Also, Valentine’s Day is coming up! What a great gift an ALT membership (and cool “I Heart Aquidneck Island” car magnet) would make!

The third reason I am confident that we can meet our “next 2000” challenge is the strong Island-wide solidarity of the ALT family. People in Newport give money for projects in Middletown and ALL the way up to Portsmouth and visa versa (or however you say that when there are three entities involved). We ignore artificial geographic divisions because we all share common goals – protecting our seven island reservoirs, controlling traffic on our over-burdened roads, avoiding going off-Island whenever possible.

Like the “Only in Rhode Island” stores that sell BOSTON Red Sox t-shirts – think about it - ALT family roots for the home team, but we know “home” extends beyond backyard boundaries.

The fourth reason I know we can achieve our goal of conserving the next 2,000 acres is that ALT recognizes what Jerry Seinfeld has said, “there is no such thing as ‘fun for the whole family.’” ALT offers different THINGS for each member of our diverse and multi-talented family to do. We have a wide variety of volunteer jobs. Please let us know what you can do by filling out the post cards at your tables. You can even just offer ideas for how ALT can do something better. And, we’ll probably say, as we do in my family, “If you don’t like it, go fix it yourself!” But we’d be way more polite and you would have FUN!

The final reason I am confident that the ALT family will ensure success is that we – like all Aquidneck Islanders - have an unusually deep desire to preserve meaningful places. I know this, in my gut. How? Because Aquidneck Islanders primarily give directions based on places that no longer exist. Yes, you know what I mean.

“Turn left at where Chicken City USED to be.” “It’s near where Nadeau's Pharmacy was.” I told someone, “BJs is where Aquidneck Lanes used to be.”

ALT supporters know how fast properties can change. And you have helped ALT stop what would be even sadder directions like: “Go down Union past where Thurston Farm used to be.” “Turn left at the Sweet Berry Farm - condos.” “He lives off East Main Road, in that new Newport Vineyard housing development, right after the Boulevard Nurseries strip mall, and the 5 sets of gigantic electronic bill boards.

If these were real directions, then we would feel more than nostalgia, we would feel deep sorrow. Because once open spaces and farms are gone, they would be gone forever. Unlike Chicken City, which moved and briefly came back.

All of you here tonight know we have got to protect our beloved open spaces. Not just because they hold great memories for us, but because they fundamentally affect our quality of life. The ALT Family protects: clean drinking water, local farms and recreational areas for our children. And WE protect the scenic vistas that warm our souls even when the temperatures are frigid.

I wanted to end with a stirring quote, because as Oscar Wilde has said, “quotation is a serviceable substitute for wit.” But, Google failed me. So, I’ll just end by saying: We’ve done great things. We’ve got a lot left to do. We will continue and do even greater things because of you. I am grateful and excited to be your Board Chair for one more year. Let us keep treating each other like family – and better. Thank you.

I would now like to adjourn the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Aquidneck Land Trust. Let us all work to make 2013 another great year for the Land Trust.

**Slide #33 Show introductory Slide #1 again**