



## **Land Conservancy of Ridgefield, Inc.**

### **GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM**

#### **Background**

- The primary mission of the Land Conservancy of Ridgefield, Inc. is to preserve and protect land in Ridgefield. Preservation of land benefits our community by adding quality of life values for the residents of our town, including the preservation of its rural character.

- The Land Conservancy of Ridgefield was established in 1967 and currently owns 510 acres of conservation land and holds conservation easements for 140 acres throughout Ridgefield.

#### **Stewardship**

- Our board (see list below) is responsible for monitoring and maintaining all Land Conservancy properties and conservation easements.

- The Land Conservancy has a legal right to inspect each property and enter it at reasonable times for monitoring purposes.

- Our objective is to have our board members and/or volunteers routinely inspect each property to see that it remains in its natural state.. A property inspection report is filed for each parcel.

- The board of directors oversees any corrective action required as noted in the property inspection reports.

#### **Neighbors**

- The Land Conservancy inspects its property throughout the year. As the inspections are completed, remediation is prioritized and implemented as required.

- We rely on our neighbors to act as de facto stewards. We would like our neighbors to contact our office should they notice any evidence of trespass (e.g., property invasion by motorized vehicles, horses, wagons, etc.), hunting, vandalism (e.g., graffiti, disturbance of natural features, etc.), dumping, encroaching or the existence of any safety hazards.

- We have an expectation that our neighbors will respect our property boundary lines and not encroach on (e.g., build on, fence, plant, clear) Land Conservancy property in any way. Our neighbors should contact us promptly if they feel their property is being impacted by anything occurring on Land Conservancy property.

- Connecticut legislation allows for land conservation organizations to enforce their ownership and conservation easement rights against encroachment with penalties up to five times the cost of restoration. See section (d) of PA 06-89.

- The Land Conservancy of Ridgefield, Inc. Board of Directors include Tom Belote, Carroll Brewster, Joan Corley, Dave Gelfman, Sid Kelley, Doug Martin, Steve Sheridan, James Tobin, Anne Tracy, and Brian Truskowski.