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Protecting a Portion of the Beaver Dam Heath Conservation Focus Area and Initiating Innovative Conservation Financing in Berwick, Maine

Great Works Regional Land Trust

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Protecting a Portion of the Beaver Dam Heath
Conservation Focus Area and Initiating Innovative
Conservation Financing in Berwick, Maine
Federal award #CE991711-15
UNH Grant: 166182; Fund: 166183

A Final Report to
The Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership

Submitted by
Great Works Regional Land Trust
PO Box 151
South Berwick, ME 03908

October 31, 2011

This project was funded in part by a grant from the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership as authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program.



Project Abstract

This project permanently protected 28 acres in the Beaver Dam Heath Conservation Focus Area through a bargain sale of the fee simple interest. The Grants Meadow III parcel is 85% wetland. The remainder of the upland lies along Diamond Hill Road with adequate frontage for 2-3 house lots. This project involved outreach to the Town of Berwick for project funding to match the PREP funding awarded. GWRLT also received NAWCA funds to complete the project.



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Introduction

Beaver Dam Heath situated in Berwick/North Berwick Maine is a 1,500+/- wetland mosaic interspersed with upland forest and is a State Focus Area for Ecological Significance. Two (2) tributaries of the Great Works River flow through Beaver Dam Heath (Beaver Dam Brook & Lovers Brook) and an un-named stream exiting from the western side of Beaver Dam Heath flows into the Salmon Falls River. Beaver Dam Heath is a PREP Conservation Focus Area(CFA) that supports three (3) rare animal species (Black Racer snake, Spotted Turtle & Blandings Turtle), four (4) rare plant species (Eastern Joe-pye weed, Atlantic White cedar, Button Sedge and Smooth Winterberry Holly).

Large contiguous natural areas such as Beaver Dam Heath are becoming increasingly rare in the rapidly developing region of southern York County. The Town of Berwick in particular has seen residential growth increasing at 2.5% annually in the last decade.

Permanent protection of land within Beaver Dam Heath began in 2006 with the donation of 113 acres to Great Works Regional Land Trust (GWRLT) (Grants Meadow I). This was followed by a 4 acre donation by the Town of Berwick(Grants Meadow II). GWRLT had the opportunity to purchase 28 additional acres adjacent to these conservation lands at a bargain sale.

This latest project (Grants Meadow III) is 85% palustrine wetland, but contains enough upland acreage and frontage along Diamond Hill Road to include 2-3 house lots.

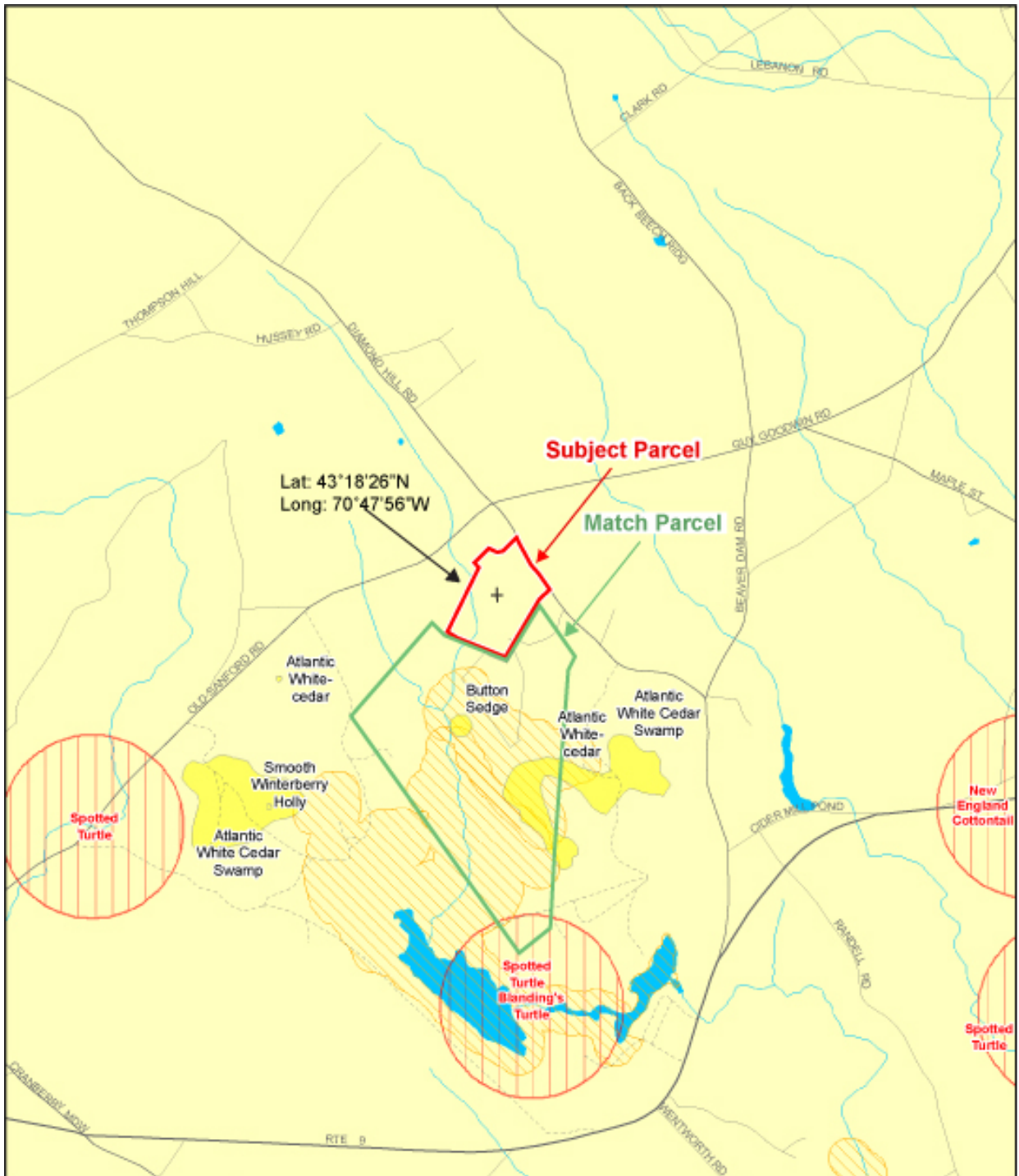









Figure 4. State of Maine Wildlife Data, Grant's Meadow III, Berwick, Maine Small NAWCA, October 2009.

Legend		Rare plants & communities (MNAP)	
	Wading Bird and Waterfowl habitat (MDIFW)		Possibly Extirpated
	Threatened and endangered species (MDIFW)		Endangered
			Threatened
			Special Concern

0 0.25 0.5 Miles
 0 0.5 Kilometers

N


Wildlife data from MDIFW and MNAP.
 Base data from MEGIS.
 Map by USFWS
 Gulf of Maine Coastal Program
 A46001 19 October 2009 Map #59

Project Objectives

This project primarily implemented the following Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) Management Plan Actions:

Action Plan ID#	Action Plan Title	Output
LU-14	Work with landowners to permanently protect land and water through conservation easements and fee acquisitions, particularly associated with Conservation Focus Areas (CFAs).	Land protected in CFAs
LU-14	Work with landowners to permanently protect land and water through conservation easements and fee acquisitions, particularly associated with Conservation Focus Areas (CFAs).	Innovative fund raising activity for land protection projects and/or stewardship activities.

GWRLT was awarded a small NAWCA grant in 2010 of \$75,000 toward the purchase of Grants Meadow III, with the value of Grants Meadow I, prior period project costs and the bargain sale value, used as non-Federal match (2.2:1 match ratio – appendix A). The goal was to use PREP grant award to complete the purchase price and obtain matching funds from the town of Berwick for stewardship and transaction costs.

Outcomes and Conclusions

This project resulted in the first permanent protection of upland acreage in Beaver Dam Heath (approximately 14 acres in core CFA & eight acres in CFA supporting landscape) and elimination of 2-3 potential house lots (Appendix B). Along with the funds award by PREP for this project, GWRLT was successful in obtaining NAWCA funds for completing the purchase price, closing costs and administrative costs for this land transaction.

The Grants Meadow III project also involved a high level of engagement between GWRLT and the citizens and municipal officials of the Town of Berwick. Over 70 hours of volunteer management went into outreach and education presentations to over 200 people (Appendix C). Meetings included presentations to the Board of Selectmen and public in the town of Berwick, resulting in voter approval of a \$10,000 appropriation to support conservation and stewardship of GMIII (appendix D).

Additional outreach was accomplished through multiple press releases celebrating the success of the project (Appendix E).

The success of this project is a model to follow. Active cultivation in a community that will directly benefit from a land conservation project resulted in significant financial support from the community. Supporting a local land trust in their role of education and outreach could be a key factor in gaining financial support for land conservation projects in the future.

Appendices:

Appendix A – NAWCA grant award Statement

Appendix B – closing statement and deed for Grant Meadow III land transaction

Appendix C – project management –volunteer hour log - Michael Wright, GWRLT, BOD

Appendix D – Town of Berwick warrant and \$10,000 award to assists in the purchase and conservation of Beaver Dam Heath/GM III

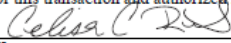

Appendix E – press releases

Appendix
A

Domestic Standard 10/4/04

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ASSISTANCE AWARD

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

1. AGREEMENT NO. ME-N381A		2. MODIFICATION NO. 001		3. TYPE OF AWARD (Check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative Agreement																	
4. PROJECT TITLE AND LOCATION GRANTS MEADOW III- CRITICAL UPLAND & STREAM CONSERVATION IN SOUTHERN MAINE'S BEAVER DAM HEATH, ME			5. AWARD RECIPIENT John Kareckas, President Great Works Regional Land Trust PO Box 151 South Berwick, ME 03908 Phone: 207-646-3604 E-mail: info@gwrlt.org																		
6. FWS GRANT OFFICER U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Attn: Rodecia McKnight Division of Bird Habitat Conservation 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MBSP 4075 Arlington, Virginia 22203 Phone: (703) 358-2266 FAX: (703) 358-2282 E-mail: rodecia_mcknight@fws.gov			7. RECIPIENT'S PROJECT OFFICER Anne Gamble Development Coordinator Great Works Regional Land Trust PO Box 151 South Berwick, ME 03908 Phone: 207-646-3604 Cell phone (optional): FAX: E-mail: agamble@gwrlt.org																		
8. PROGRAM STATUTORY AUTHORITY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> North American Wetlands Conservation Act, PL 101-233, as amended (16 USC 4401 et seq.) <input type="checkbox"/> Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 2000, P.L. 106-247 (16 USC 6101)			9. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) No.: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15.623 (North American Wetlands Conservation Act) <input type="checkbox"/> 15.635 (Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act)																		
10. DUNS: 112223326 EIN/TIN: 222736228		11. FUNDING PERIOD: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Two years: from the execution of the agreement (date of signature in Box 17 of the original Assistance Award) <input type="checkbox"/> Begins and ends																			
12. TYPE OF RECIPIENT (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> STATE GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL <input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITAL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		13. FUNDING INFORMATION The undersigned hereby certifies that funds in the amount of \$75,000 are hereby available in "Charge to Account" and reserved for this transaction and authorized for the purpose intended.  Celisa Riley, Program Support Specialist, DBHC Date: 08/31/2011 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>FWS</th> <th>Match</th> <th>Other Contributions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>This Obligation</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>\$261,267</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Previous Obligation</td> <td>\$75,000</td> <td>\$</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Obligation</td> <td>\$75,000</td> <td>\$261,267</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement payments only (advances not authorized). Quarterly Federal Financial Reports are not required. Annual Federal Financial Reports (SF425) are required as described in the applicable grant policy. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement and advance payments allowed. Quarterly Federal and annual Federal Financial Reports (SF425) are required as described in the applicable grant policy. CHARGE TO ACCOUNT: 4711 DCN#91100-11-0017 2010- 91100-5522-SM16 411G ABC: 7C					FWS	Match	Other Contributions	This Obligation	\$0	\$261,267	\$0	Previous Obligation	\$75,000	\$	\$	Total Obligation	\$75,000	\$261,267	\$0
	FWS	Match	Other Contributions																		
This Obligation	\$0	\$261,267	\$0																		
Previous Obligation	\$75,000	\$	\$																		
Total Obligation	\$75,000	\$261,267	\$0																		
14. PROVISIONS: This agreement incorporates the following provisions by reference: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 43 CFR Part 12, Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost Principles for Assistance Programs (http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 49 CFR Part 24, Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition for Federal and Federally Assisted Programs (http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project proposal dated 10/29/2009, approved for funding by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission or FWS Director (as applicable) on 06/10/2009, except as modified in box 15. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recipient's Application for Federal Assistance (SF424) dated 10/29/2009 <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence between the Recipient and the Division of Bird Habitat Conservation dated _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> United States Grant Administration Standards dated January 2006 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) :																					
15. BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE APPROVED PROJECT, ANY SPECIAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO THE APPROVED PROJECT, AND/OR ANY MODIFICATION OF THE APPROVED PROJECT: The purpose of this project is to purchase and permanently protect a 33-acre tract of rich wetland habitat along the upland perimeter of Beaver Dam Heath in the Southern Maine town of Berwick. This project is adjacent to a conservation acquisition by Great Works Regional Land Trust (GWRLT) totaling 113 acres, and is provided as match for this proposal. All lands will be owned by GWRLT in perpetuity and managed to preserve and enhance their habitat value for threatened and endangered species. The purpose of this modification is to 1) change the recipient's project officer, as noted in item 7 and 2) Due to administrative error, the match total on the original grant agreement was listed incorrectly. The revisions to the original proposal agree with \$261,267 for partner match. The match ratio still is beyond the 1:1 ratio.																					
16. The recipient is NOT required to sign this agreement. If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Program Officer has not received a written notice declining the award or requesting a delay of the execution date from the Recipient within 10 business days of the date that the Recipient receives this award, the funding period of the agreement will begin on the date designated on this document.			17. NAME AND TITLE OF U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OFFICIAL Sarah Mott, Chief, Grants Branch, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation SIGNATURE:  DATE: August 31, 2011																		

Appendix B

CLOSING STATEMENT

Closing Date September 15, 2011
Sale of 28.08 Acres Diamond Hill Road
Berwick (25.43) & North Berwick (2.65)

North Berwick Tax records Map 3 Lot 38-1
Berwick Tax records Map R-41 Lot 13

BUYER

Great Works Regional Land Trust
PO Box 151
South Berwick, ME 03908

SELLERS

Carolyn G. Bryan & Wilfred B. Bryan
2570 Withington Peak
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

Sale Price	\$ 75,000.00
Deposit	\$ 1,000.00
Balance	\$ 74,000.00

SELLERS' EXPENSES OR COSTS:

State of Maine 2 ½% withholding	\$ 1,875.00
Pro-rated real estate taxes Berwick (07/01 to 09/15)	\$ 133.67
Pro-rated real estate taxes North Berwick (07/01 to 09/15)	\$ 152.00
State of Maine transfer tax	\$ 165.00
York County recording fee trespass letter	\$ 16.00
Total of Seller's Closing costs:	\$ 2,341.67
Balance due Seller	\$ 71,658.33

BUYER'S EXPENSES OR COSTS:

Legal: Bruce A. Whitney, Esq.	\$ 700.00
York County recording fees 3 page deed	\$ 20.00
York County recording fee Match Grant document	\$ 22.00
State of Maine transfer tax	\$ 165.00
Title Insurance premium Signature Title	\$ 465.00
Total of Buyer's closing costs:	\$ 1,372.00
Less Seller's pro-rated taxes credit	\$ 285.67
Balance due from Buyer:	\$ 75,086.33

We have read and understand the above closing figures and Closing Statement.

WARRANTY DEED

Carolyn G. Bryan and Wilfred B. Bryan, husband and wife, having a mailing address of 570 Withington Peak, Rio Rancho, NM 87144, for consideration paid, grant to **Great Works Regional Land Trust**, a duly formed Maine corporation, with a mailing address of P.O. Box 151, South Berwick, ME 03908, with warranty covenants, a certain lot or parcel of land located in the towns of Berwick and North Berwick, County of York, and State of Maine, bounded and described as follows:

See Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Meaning and intending to convey a portion of the premises conveyed to the Grantors herein by deed of Carolyn G. Bryan, said deed being dated October 22, 1999 and recorded in the York County Registry of Deeds at Book 9776, Page 77.

Witness our hands and seals this 9th day of September, 2011.

[Signature]
Witness

Carolyn G. Bryan
Carolyn G. Bryan

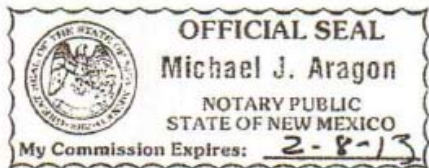
[Signature]
Witness

Wilfred B. Bryan
Wilfred B. Bryan

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF Bernalillo

September 9th, 2011

Then personally appeared the above-named Carolyn G. Bryan and Wilfred B. Bryan and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be their free act and deed.



[Signature]
Notary Public's Name: Michael Aragon
My commission expires: 2-8-13

Appendix C

Time sheet for work on the Grant's Meadow III project.

Michael Wright

Date:	Activity:	Hours:
11/4/10 – 12/04/10	Develop slide show and prepare hand out materials for selectmen.	10
12/09/10	Presentation of slide show to Berwick Planning Board. 8 people present.	2
12/21/10	Revision to slideshow and presentation to Berwick Board of Selectmen meeting. Request article on town meeting warrant for \$10,000 to support purchase of Grant's Meadow III property. 17 people present.	2
1/30/11	Develop posters and promotional information for Cross country ski and snowshoe tour of Grant's Meadow III/Beaver Dam Heath. Clear and blaze trail.	7
2/05/11	Host cross country ski and snowshoe event. 23 people present.	4
2/10/11	Prepare material for Grant's Meadow III poster for Great Works Regional Land Trust annual meeting.	2
3/08/11	Present Grant's Meadow III poster and advocate for article on town meeting warrant for purchase of Grant's Meadow III at Town Budget workshop. 46 people present.	2
3/18/11	Site walk with members of the Berwick Hussey	2

	School PTO to plan Story Walk event at Grant's Meadow III site for grades k-4.	
3/28/11	Present slide show to Boy Scout Troop 312 and discuss opportunities for scouts on Grant's meadow III property. 10 people present.	2
3/29/11	Attend Public Hearing and advocate for Grant's Meadow III article. Selectmen include article and recommend YES vote, 35 people present.	2
4/03/11	Clear and flag trail to set up Story Walk. Write press release for event.	3
4/09/11	Set up Grant's Meadow III information for Story Walk.	1
4/12/11	Revise slide show and develop informational materials for talk to Girl Scout Neighborhood Meeting. Present show. 23 people present.	3
4/21/11	Prepare slide show and information for public meeting on preserving farmland and open space in Berwick, emphasizing the Grant's Meadow project and upcoming vote at town meeting. Press release and mailings to targeted land owners.	4
4/27/11	Host public meeting at town hall. 28 people present.	3
5/4&5/11	Hand out fliers for Grant's Meadow III vote at Berwick Transfer Station.	4
5/10/11	Voters approve article to appropriate &10,000 towards the purchase of Grant's Meadow III.	
8/03/11	Met with appraiser concerning Grant's Meadow III.	2
8/17/11	Host fundraiser for Grant's Meadow III	4

at Berwick's Hackmatack Playhouse.

9/11/11	Survey Grant's Meadow III site for environmental hazards.	4
9/18/11	Met with Scout Master of Troop 313 and two Eagle Scout candidates to walk and plan trail projects at Grant's Meadow site.	3
9/26/11	Met with forester to walk Grant's Meadow site and discuss timber management plans for Grant's Meadow site.	3

Appendix D

ARTICLE 23

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000** for the Great Works Regional Land Trust. These funds will be used by the Trust to assist in the purchase of additional land in and around the Beaver Dam Heath to be called "Grants Meadow" and allow for public access.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMEND A YES VOTE 4-0

*TOWN OF BERWICK
P.O. BOX 696
BERWICK, ME 03901
207-698-1101*

October 25, 2011

To Whom it May Concern:

Please be advised that the Town of Berwick awarded the Great Works Regional Land Trust \$10,000.00 by vote of its Town Meeting on May 10, 2011.

A check number 27577 was sent to Great Works Regional Land Trust on September 13, 2011.

Janet D. Canney
Town of Berwick
Finance Director



Classifieds & News

ACCOUNTING

RAYMOND C. SNELL, CPA
Accounting and Income Tax
Individual and Business
Corporation & Non Profits
So. Berwick 207-384-5425
kakemo1@myfairpoint.net

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Berwick's First Public Trail Coming Soon

BERWICK—
In the coming months,
Great Works Regional Land
Trust will establish the town
of Berwick's first public trail
on Grants Meadow. Located
near the intersection of Dia-
mond Hill and Old Sanford
roads, the trail will provide
access to resource-rich Beaver
Dam Heath. While the trails
length and scope have yet to
be mapped, its creation is due
to community enthusiasm and
generosity.

"I was surprised and en-
couraged by the strong sup-
port Berwick residents have
expressed for public access to
the hiking trails we are plan-
ning for our Grant's Meadow
project," said Michael Wright,
Berwick resident and Great
Works board member who is
managing the project. "Time
and again folks have stated a
need in Berwick for places to
walk without the worry of road
traffic. Great Works Regional
Land Trust and Eagle Scout
candidates from Troop 313 are
proceeding with planning trail

development. We look forward
to having Berwick's first public
access trail open to the public
next Spring," said Wright.

Grants Meadow III, the
28-acre site for the trail, was ac-
quired by Great Works on Sep-
tember 15, 2011. Soon school
children and adults can hope to
enjoy and study its forests and
wetlands. They may see Spot-
ted Turtles, a threatened spe-
cies, or one of America's best-
looking waterfowl, the Wood-
Duck, with its glossy plumage.

The property boasts other sig-
nificant wildlife as well.
The purchase and conser-
vation of the 28-acre preserve
of Grants Meadow, which
closed on September 15, 2011,
was made possible by a bar-
gain sale by the sellers, Bill and
Carol Bryan whose family held
the land historically.

"We've had various plans
over the years for sharing our
woodlands in the Heath with
the public. One idea was open-
ing it for x-country skiing in
the winter but about that time
snow began to be unreliable."

said Bill Bryan. "We are very
pleased to have had the help of
all the folks at GWRLT in fi-
nally achieving this goal."

Funds and matching con-
tributions were provided: the
town of Berwick contributed
\$10,000 that was approved
by voters, National Fish and
Wildlife Service-North Ameri-
can Wetland Conservation Act
Funds (\$75,000), and Piscat-
away Regional Estuaries Part-
nership (\$10,000), and individ-
ual donations.

"We are deeply indebted
to the town, granting agencies,
the Bryans and other donors
in making this trail possible
for now and long term," said
Wright.

Before the generous bar-

RENTALS

YEAR ROUND

Ocean front 3 bedroom, 2 bath
split level ranch located in
Kittery Point. The open floor
concept in the living room and
dining room offer unobstructed
ceiling to floor panoramic views
from the Isles of Shoals to the
Nubble Light and beyond. The
house features a wrap around
deck and 2 car garage. Master
bedroom with bath is located on
the main floor. Two additional
bedrooms, full bath, family room
and separate laundry room with

RENTALS

RENTALS
Wells: Two bedroom, one bath
cottage. \$800/month
plus utilities.

RENTALS

WELLS (207) 363-7655
One Bedroom \$650 plus
Two Bedroom \$850 plus
Year Round Lease

gain sale of Grants Meadow
III, the Bryans had donated an-
other 113 acres in Beaver Dam
Heath to Great Works. These
sites plus another 4-acre parcel
already donated by the town of
Berwick form a significant step
in conservation of the Heath.

Beaver Dam Heath is
recognized by the Maine De-
partment of Inland Fisheries
and Wildlife as a critical habi-
tat for the threatened Spotted
Turtle, Blanding's Turtle and
Atlantic White Cedars, rare in
Maine. It is ideal habitat for the
Wood Duck and American Bit-
tern. The preserve is also vital
to flood prevention and water
filtration for the Great Works
River, which flows into the
Salmon Falls River.

Great Works Regional
Land Trust is a non-profit or-
ganization founded in 1986 to
provide conservation options to
the landowners of Eliot, South
Berwick, Berwick, North Ber-
wick, Wells and Ogunquit.
Great Works Regional Land
Trust is committed to saving
the best of our region by pro-
tecting working landscapes
and wildlife lands for current
and future generations. To get
involved with Grants Meadow
during this exciting phase of
trail development, please con-
tact Michael Wright at 698-
7627 or mlkedwright@com-
case.net.

WINTER RENTALS

Purchase Completed in Beaver Dam Heath: Berwick's First Public Trail Coming Soon



The new parcel in Beaver Dam Heath will allow for better public access with parking and a trail to the broad spaces of the Heath.

CONSERVATION MATTERS! MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE ANNUAL SPRING AUCTION SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2012

*This is our major fundraiser, lots of fun,
and there is much to do to get ready for it!*

Event planning
Solicit donations
Clerical assistance
Auction setup
Auction night

Call the office at 207-646-3604
or email info@gwrlt.org.

Wish List:

**A volunteer to plow out the parking
area at our Tuckahoe property on
Hubbard Road this winter.**

Thank you to Urban Tree Service for pruning trees this summer at Beach Plum Farm and *Thank you* to those folks who kept a few of our parking areas plowed out last winter so snowshoers and x-c skiers could get out on the land.

CLYNK for Farmland!

In just over a year your returnable beverage container donations to CLYNK has raised \$663 for farmland protection. Call or email the Great Works office to get more tags for your bags at 207-646-3604 or info@gwrlt.org.

In the coming months, Great Works will establish Berwick's first public trail on Grants Meadow, the Trust's latest land purchase. Located near the intersection of Diamond Hill and Old Sanford roads, the trail will provide access to resource-rich Beaver Dam Heath. While the trail's length and scope have yet to be mapped, its creation represents an important step in conservation and community.

Grants Meadow III, the 28-acre site for the trail, was acquired on September 15, 2011 by Great Works. Soon school children and adults can hope to enjoy and study its forests and wetlands. They may see Spotted Turtles, a threatened species, or one America's best-looking waterfowl, the Wood Duck, with its distinctive glossy plumage among other significant wildlife. Great Works volunteers, the local Parent Teacher Organization, townspeople and others helped build excitement and support for this project.

"As I informed community groups about Grants Meadow, I was impressed with the level of support that community members offered. Their enthusiasm and generous support for public access to hiking trails in Grants Meadow ensures that this will be a community asset for days to come," said Michael Wright, Berwick resident and Great Works board member who is directing the project.

Grants Meadow III's purchase, expenses and stewardship funding (over \$101,000), was accomplished by a generous bargain sale from the sellers, Bill and Carol Bryan, whose family held Grants Meadow historically. Funding was provided by National Fish and Wildlife Service-North American Wetland Conservation Act Funds (\$75,000), Piscataqua Regional Estuaries Partnership (\$10,000), individual donations, and proceeds from a benefit at Berwick's Hackmatack Playhouse.

The town of Berwick contributed \$10,000 approved by its voters. "The preservation of open space for wildlife habitat, water resources and recreation is a shared goal of Berwick and Great Works Regional Land Trust," said Keith Trefethen, Town Manager. "We look forward to the Trust promoting public access and walking trails on this land."

The property, located partly in North Berwick as well, is adjoined by another Great Works preserve that comprises 113 acres also donated by the Bryans and approximately 4-acres donated by the town of Berwick. The area marks an important step in conservation of Beaver Dam Heath, an area of 1,672-acres of wetlands and upland forest habitat of strategic conservation significance for Great Works and the greater community.

Beaver Dam Heath is recognized by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as a critical habitat for the threatened Spotted turtle, the endangered Blanding's turtle and Atlantic white cedars, rare in Maine. It is ideal habitat for the Wood Duck and the American Bittern. Its vernal pools are primary breeding grounds for salamanders, frogs and fairy shrimp. The preserve is also vital to flood prevention and water filtration for the Great Works River, which drains into the Salmon Falls River.

To get involved with Grants Meadow during the exciting phase of trail development, please contact Michael Wright at 698-7627 or mikedwright@comcast.net.

