

PECONIC LAND TRUST



For immediate release

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PECONIC LAND TRUST ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2007/2008

*New Board members are: Julie P. DeBold, Harriet Dresher,
Nancy Goell, and Donald Willits Smith*

December 21, 2007. Southampton, New York. John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust, announces that four prominent East Enders have joined the Board of Directors beginning with the 2007/2008 year: Julie P. DeBold of Greenport, Harriet (Hatsy) H. Dresher of Sag Harbor, Nancy K. Goell of East Hampton and Donald Willits Smith of Greenport. The new Board was elected on October 15, 2007. In addition, Nancy Gilbert, who has been Co-Chair of the Board since October 2006, has assumed full Chair responsibilities. Blair McCaslin, who shared the Chair duties with Gilbert last year, has rotated off the Board, but will remain active with the organization as Board Chair Emeritus.

“We are tremendously grateful that these four individuals – Julie, Hatsy, Nancy and Donald – have committed to serving on the Board of the Peconic Land Trust. Trust Board members are intimately involved with the organization and devote a large amount of time setting policies and ensuring that the organization is run in

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an ethical and fiscally responsible manner. As the President and Founder of the organization, I take great pride in our organization's ability to attract people of such high caliber and integrity to our board and look forward to working with them in the coming years," said John v.H. Halsey.

Also rotating off the Board this year are Lloyd Zuckerberg and Jane Iselin. Iselin, who has been on the Board since 1995, most recently as Secretary of the Board (since 1997), is being succeeded by Marilee Foster in that position. Zuckerberg and Iselin will remain active with the organization: Zuckerberg, who has been on the Board since 2000, was most recently Chair of the Philanthropy Committee, as well as Founder and Chair of the Nassau Land Trust, a supporting organization of the Peconic Land Trust. Zuckerberg will remain active on the Philanthropy Committee as Vice Chair; Iselin will also remain active with the Trust as a member of the Outreach Committee and the Quail Hill Farm Advisory Committee.

Current board members John S. Norbeck and Stephen Weir have been elected Vice Chair and Assistant Treasurer respectively. *(A full list of board members is included at the end of this release.)*

"I also want to take this time to thank those Board members, Blair, Lloyd, and Jane who are rotating off the formal Board at this time. They have provided tremendous counsel to the Trust, and I look forward to their continued involvement in our work," added Halsey.

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“In particular, I would like single out the contributions of Blair McCaslin. Blair has been an extremely active and positive force on the Trust’s Board since 1990. As a member of the Southampton Town Planning Board, he has been all too aware of the development occurring in our communities. He has also been a conservation champion beyond Long Island as a member and supporter of the national Land Trust Alliance and Treasurer of the North American Land Trust.”

Basics on the Board: To be eligible to serve on the Peconic Land Trust’s Board of Directors, an individual must have served on a Committee. These committees include: Agriculture, Finance, Project, Public Policy, Philanthropy, Outreach, and Stewardship. Nominations to the Board are made by the Board Development Committee.

New Board Member Background:

Julie P. DeBold: Currently Executive Administrator for Bill Fox Grounds Maintenance Inc. Former Associate Director, Long Island Farm Bureau; she holds a Masters in Environmental Studies and Public Policy from Stony Brook University. DeBold has served on the Trust’s Agriculture Committee.

Harriet (Hatsy) H. Dresher: Currently, Vice President Mrs. Field’s Literary Club and Trustee of Grace Church School. Former Treasurer of Brooklyn Heights Garden Club and former Secretary for Brooklyn Historical Society. Dresher has served on the Outreach and Project Committees.

Nancy K. Goell: Board of Directors/Co-Chair for the East Hampton Day Care Learning Center. Former Habitat Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Services; former Member of the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council; and former

Executive Director, Group for the South Fork. Goell has served on the Trust's Public Policy and Project Committees.

Donald Willits Smith: Land Planning consultant, professional civil engineer and land surveyor. Board member of Brecknock Hall Foundation; former Board member of Friends Academy, Habitat for Humanity of Nassau County, and Friends World College. Smith has served on the Project Committee.

About the Peconic Land Trust

The Peconic Land Trust was established in 1983 to conserve Long Island's working farms and natural lands. Since its inception, the nonprofit Trust has worked conscientiously with farmers and other landowners, donors, and municipalities to conserve over 8,600 acres of land on Long Island. The Trust's professional staff carries out the necessary research and planning to identify and implement alternatives to outright development. While working to conserve the productive farms, watersheds, woodlands, and beachfront of Long Island, the Trust is also protecting the unique rural heritage and natural resources of the region. The Trust has Stewardship Centers in Cutchogue and Amagansett and its Main Office is in Southampton. *A common misperception, however, is that the Peconic Land Trust is the recipient of the monies raised through the Peconic Bay Region Community Preservation Fund (also referred to as the 2% land transfer tax or the Peconic Land Tax). This is NOT the case. The CPF tax is collected by Suffolk County and then redistributed to the five East End towns, the distribution of which is based on the location of the property from which the tax is acquired.* For more information about the Peconic Land Trust visit www.peconiclandtrust.org or call 631.283.3195.

Peconic Land Trust Board of Directors (2007-2008)

Nancy Gilbert, Chair
John S. Norbeck, Vice Chair
John v.H. Halsey, President
Barbara Brush Wright, Treasurer
Marilee Foster, Secretary
Stephen Weir, Assistant Treasurer
Douglas W. Campbell IV
Julie P. DeBold
Harriet H. Dresher
Nancy K. Goell
Pingree Loucheim
Brian R. McCaffrey
Donald Willits Smith
Peter J. Talty
E. Blair McCaslin, Board Chair Emeritus

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