



Block Island Land Trust
Report to Financial Town Meeting
May 4, 2015

The Block Island Land Trust was created in 1986 by an Act of the Rhode Island Legislature to assess a property transfer tax on all purchases of land on the island which would be used to acquire land for open space, habitat and aquifer protection, agricultural use and recreation. We are fortunate to have a cooperative working relationship with island conservation partners Block Island Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy, as well as various federal and state organizations, and with the generous property owners who have worked with us to preserve significant parcels for future generations.

This year, the Block Island Land Trust and Block Island Conservancy worked together to create a master plan for passive public recreational use of the recently acquired and environmentally sensitive Solviken property. CRMC Assent was granted, and bids are out, for delineating parking for surfers and sightseers, as well as preserving the historic foundation, creating a loop trail through a coastal buffer zone and inland meadow. In collaboration with the Committee for the Great Salt Pond, an educational kiosk and viewing platform will be constructed overlooking Harbor Pond. We are also collaborating with RI Natural History Survey and RI Coastal Resources Management Council on a project to demonstrate the importance of balancing preservation, protection of natural coastal features and native plants, and public enjoyment of conserved property.

The Land Trust also completed a new public beach access path through our Ocean View property. The path begins near Inner Harbor in the downtown area, and takes beachgoers along a scenic walkway, over the bluff overlooking Old Harbor, and safely down to the beach below.

There were no new acquisition projects completed this year, but we have some promising prospects in the works, and hope to include those in our report for next May.

Revenue has remained strong, and as of July 1, 2014 the Land Trust funds on hand totaled \$870,416. Our revenues for the period July 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015 totaled \$1,126,206. We spent \$218,640 over that same period for debt service, and for our normal stewardship and other activities. We ended the period with a balance of \$1,777,983. Details of our income and expenses are shown in the attached summary.

As always, we would like to convey our thanks to the Block Island community for your faithful support.

Respectfully submitted,
Block Island Land Trust

Chair Barbara MacMullan, Vice Chair Denny Heinz, Treasurer Barby Michel, Harold Hatfield III, Wendy Crawford