

Linny Levin Memorial Trail Fund Resolution
Thetford Conservation Commission
August 22, 2012

Background:

Since 2000 The Thetford Conservation Commission has been holding money donated by friends and family of Linny Levin for the purpose of building an educational trail to be known as the Linny Levin Memorial Trail. The intent was to site the trail on a town-owned property along the Ompompanoosuc River.

The originally intended site appears less than ideal for the trail because: (a) it is not conserved; (b) we learned, after the fund was established that the parcel is a floodplain and that a large swath of it, on either side of the river, is a FEMA floodway; (c) the river is actively changing course and eroding its banks, which would be detrimental to any trail near the river; (d) the property is situated far from Thetford's schools.

A better site for the trail is the Zebedee Headwaters wetland, purchased and conserved by Upper Valley Land Trust several years ago. . This is a premium site for observing nature, so much so that it is used as an outdoor classroom by Thetford Elementary School second grade students in a four season curriculum. It is conveniently situated within walking distance of the elementary school.

Locating the trail at the Zebedee Headwaters wetland will fulfill the wish of the donors to make the trail educational. In 2010, Ted Levin, the Conservation Commission, Steve Glazer (founder of Valley Quest) and UVLT agreed that this would be the best place for the trail.

A rough, preliminary trail has been placed, but is in need of improvement. The Linny Levin Memorial Trail fund will be used to make the trail more navigable, particularly where it crosses wet areas and the outlet brook. A trailhead kiosk will be designed as a memorial to Linny and will display educational information of seasonal interest, plus the writings and artwork of the second graders about their experiences on the trail. A couple of well-placed, simple benches will make the trail welcoming.

If the Conservation Commission were to administer spending from the Linny Levin trail fund it would make the purchase of construction materials (hemlock timbers, stepping stones, kiosk etc) slow and cumbersome. A vote of approval is needed at the Conservation Commission's semi-monthly meeting. Then the request is processed by the treasurer's office and then it is finally approved by the selectboard.

The Upper Valley Land Trust is incorporated as a non profit, 501 (c) 3 land conservancy, which can more efficiently hold and expend such funds subject to the purposes, conditions and responsibilities outlined below.

Resolved:

In the short-term and long-term interests of the trail, and consistent with the intentions of those who established and contributed to the Linny Levin Memorial Trail Fund, the Conservation Commission and Selectboard ask the Upper Valley Land Trust to accept the funds raised for the building and maintenance of the Linny Levin Memorial Trail, subject to the conditions and responsibilities outlined below.

UVLT will designate the funds as restricted to be used for the building and maintenance of the Linny Levin Memorial Trail at Zebedee Headwaters. UVLT will identify these funds as the "Linny Levin Memorial Trail Fund." It is expected that the funds will be expended completely within a period of several years. This will not be an endowment account.

The Linny Levin Memorial Trail Fund will be managed consistent with UVLT's financial policies and withdrawals must be consistent with UVLT's purposes as a charitable organization. UVLT will not charge management fees, nor will UVLT withdraw funds for administrative purposes.