

May 10, 2006

Dear Community Land Trust Network-

I am delighted to share with you the work of dozens of your colleagues over the last eight months on behalf of the CLT Network. This letter describes some of the work that has been done and asks for three specific types of feedback to be received before May 31, 2006. This is your chance to give input on the bylaws of the new organization, as well as to nominate people for the permanent Board of Directors and/or the Swann-Matthei award.

### Background

In Portland, Oregon last August, 150 CLT practitioners and supporters, representing 45 CLT's across the country, unanimously voted to create a new independent national community land trust organization. Twenty-one people came forward to volunteer their time for a year to serve as the Interim Board of Directors for this new organization. The key tasks for this group were as follows:

- to create bylaws for the new organization
- to define the membership criteria
- to propose a dues structure
- to coordinate the 2006 National CLT Conference in Boulder, CO.
- to establish course descriptions and to convene the first CLT Academy

To achieve these goals, the Interim Board created five work groups which met monthly: Governance, Membership, Resources, Conference and Academy. The chairs of the work groups, along with the chairs of the Board, formed an Executive Committee, which also met monthly. The entire 21 member board met quarterly. In addition to the 21 folks serving on the Interim Board, another 30 people served on the various work groups and committees. All this work was done on their own time, via emails and conference calls. NeighborWorks® America provided funding for a quarter-time support staff person for the Network, and we hired Alice Stokes, who works for the Network out of the Burlington CLT in Vermont.

Thanks to generous support from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, the CLT Academy leaped out of the starting gate with its first three-day training in Seattle in April. Other Academy trainings will occur around the country; the next one is planned for October 2006 in Minnesota.

By the end of May, you will receive the brochure for the National CLT Conference in Boulder, to be held July 12-15. This brochure will thoroughly detail the Network meetings, conference workshops and plenary sessions occurring over those four days in Boulder. A day and a half of the conference will be dedicated to Network business, with the other two days devoted to workshops & plenary sessions. Lastly, a proposed dues structure will be forwarded from the Resources workgroup to the Network in June.

Today you are receiving the results of the efforts from the Governance and Membership work groups. Attached for your review are the following three documents:

- Proposed bylaws for the new organization
- Proposed membership criteria (which are also inserted into the bylaws)
- A list of the people who have served on the interim board and/or the various committees

Anyone affiliated with a CLT (as a staff person, board or committee member, homeowner, or general member), whose organization can reasonably be expected to meet the criteria for membership as stated in Article II of the bylaws, is invited to comment on the bylaws, participate in the Network meetings in Boulder and serve on the national Board of Directors.

***After you have reviewed the attached documents, please take some time to give us your feedback through an on-line survey tool called Zoomerang. If you have any difficulty accessing the survey, please contact Alice Stokes at 802-862-5430 or at [astokes@getahome.org](mailto:astokes@getahome.org). The link to the survey is: <http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB225A6UHBRSH>***  
***The survey will ask for your responses in three different areas:***

#### 1. Bylaws/Membership Criteria

Please take some time to review the bylaws/membership criteria in detail. They are the foundation upon which we will build our network. Then, using the Zoomerang on-line survey tool, provide us with your input and suggested changes on these draft documents.

We will close the comment period on **May 31st**, and then the collected comments will be reviewed by the respective work groups. The work groups will incorporate changes where appropriate, and we will re-send the revised bylaws/membership criteria to the Network a few weeks prior to the Boulder conference. In Boulder, we will vote on these documents. While there will be some time for conversation at Boulder, it will be very limited; we ask that you take the opportunity now to provide us with your thoughtful feedback.

#### 2. Nominations of Board Members

Using the Zoomerang on-line survey tool, please consider nominating yourself or a colleague for one of the regional representative seats on the permanent board. If you nominate someone outside of your region, then they will be considered by the Nominations Committee for an at-large position. Network members are welcome to suggest at-large candidates, though the Nominations Committee is not obligated to put them on the ballot. The Nominations Committee will put forth a slate of at-large candidates for the board, trying to ensure that all constituencies as named in the bylaws are represented. The Nominations Committee will follow-up with all nominees to ensure that they are interested in and qualified for the position. The Nominations Committee can put forward more at-large candidates than the number of positions available, and the

regions may put forth multiple candidates as well. Both the regional and at-large candidates will be voted on in Boulder, with those elected forming the first permanent Board. Regions are as follows:

Northwest	Southwest	Central	Southeast	Northeast
Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, Hawaii	California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Oklahoma	North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio	Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Louisiana	Maine, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, District of Columbia

Initial Board terms will be staggered between one and two years, with all future terms being two years. We hope that some of you will consider serving the Network in this capacity. All nominations must be submitted by **May 31<sup>st</sup>**.

**3. Nominations for the Swann-Matthei award**

Using the Zoomerang on-line survey tool, please consider nominating a person or organization for the Swann-Matthei award, named in honor of two key pioneers in the formation of community land trusts: Bob Swann & Chuck Matthei. Bob was the founder of the Institute for Community Economics (ICE) and the creator of the CLT model. A longtime activist for social justice, he advocated for workable models of alternative economic institutions that promoted the equitable allocation of resources and ecological stewardship of land. Chuck, as a former executive director of ICE and founding executive director of Equity Trust, was an evangelist for the CLT model and continually thought of creative ways to use the model.

These nominations must also be submitted by **May 31<sup>st</sup>**. The Executive Committee of the Interim Board will review the nominations, and announce the award winner at the Boulder conference. Our intent is that the Swann-Matthei award will be presented annually at the Network gathering.

While we are making every effort to reach all those who are active in the CLT field, please feel free to forward this letter and the attached documents to anyone that we may have missed. The bylaws and this letter can also be accessed at: <http://www.communitylots.org/clt/events.asp>

On behalf of the many dedicated people who have been working to create and sustain this new organization, we look forward to your feedback, and to your attendance at the National Community Land Trust Conference in July!

Sincerely,  
 Jim Mischler-Philbin  
 Co-Chair  
 National CLT Interim Board of Directors