



1 Share

Area land trusts celebrate public-private collaboration

July 14, 2018 - Local, Top Stories - Tagged: Christopher Murphy, Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Kent, Litchfield Hills, Norfolk, Northwest Corner, Republican Party, Social media Towns: Canaan CT, Kent CT, Litchfield CT - no comments

BY LYNN MELLIS WORTHINGTON Republican-American



U.S. Sen. Christopher Murphy talks to area residents involved in land conservation Friday in Kent about the importance of the federal Highlands Conservation fund. Lynn Mellis Worthington Republican-American

KENT – The Kent Land Trust welcomed U.S. Sen. Christopher Murphy and Commissioner Robert J. Klee of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Friday at the field on South Main Street to celebrate a public-private collaboration that allows local land trusts access to funds to conserve land.

Murphy shared with the crowd of area land trust representatives and members of the public how he has worked to keep a focus on environmental issues.

“It’s the preservation of these open spaces that become the engines to try to solve the nettlesome problem of climate change and global warming,” Murphy said. “This is part of Connecticut’s character and why people come to the state for its views and vistas.”

The Highlands Conservation Act originally passed in 2004, and covers Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. There are 25 million people who live in or near the region, and it provides drinking water for another 20 million people, Murphy noted.

For the first 12 years, \$20 million was appropriated to the Highlands Fund. The current goal is \$10 million per year.

Search

Today's Ads

Advertisements for pool heating installation and other services.

Latest News

- MLB midseason awards: Trout still setting standard in AL through first half
Judge temporarily halts deportation of reunified families
Putin says he wanted Trump to win in 2016, didn't interfere
China files WTO challenge to US \$200B tariff plan
5 people rescued from their capsized sailboat in Groton

Greater Waterbury Board of REALTORS advertisement: BE SURE TO CALL A local REALTOR PROFESSIONAL to find your next Home!

"When I got on the Appropriations Committee, I made Highlands a priority," Murphy said. "We decided to up our game about three years ago. The good news is in the last three years, we delivered more money for the Highlands Fund than was in for the first 12 years."

He said it was reauthorized earlier this year, but only after many delays.

"There is a lot of bad news for the environment," Murphy said. "We feel like we're getting sucker punched every couple of days by this administration. In the midst of all that bad news, we've had a series of wins for land preservation."

Tim Abbott, the Housatonic Valley Association regional conservation and Greenprint director, saluted state Sen. Craig Miner, R-Litchfield, and Rep. Brian M. Ohler, R-Canaan, for their support of state open space grants, which have been a larger source of funding than the federal Highlands Act.

"I'm going to say that's been an indispensable part of what we're able to do," Abbott said. "It is one of the only sources of funding available to municipalities and to land trusts directly to be involved in land conservation. Its important."

Abbott called Murphy a champion of the Highlands Conservation Act from the start, and said the funding comes from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

"It doesn't use taxpayer dollars," Abbott said. "It is from royalties from offshore oil and gas leases, and it has authorized up to \$900 million a year."

The fund expires Sept. 30, and at last count, 44 senators, including four Republicans, have signed on to reauthorize the fund that dates back 54 years.

Murphy urged area residents not to take HVA for granted because "there isn't an HVA in every corner of the country."

"There really is no other part of the country that has the people power and the financial power that we have here to continue along this path to making that real Greenprint," Murphy said.

Abbott said the public-private partnership is an essential part of land conservation in Northwest Connecticut. Part of Friday's celebration was to recognize how the state and federal funds have been used to fund the purchase of the Vagliano property in Norfolk, which encompasses 420 acres linking Canaan Mountain to the Blackberry River. That was completed with help from a private donation through the Greenprint Partners Pledge Fund, as well as \$750,000 in state funds, state bond money and \$630,000 from the Highlands Fund.

HVA Executive Director Lynn Werner joined Abbott in presenting Klee a large \$250,000 check to complete this project. The state will own the land, which will have a federal



U.S. Sen. Christopher Murphy talks in Kent Friday about the importance of the federal Highlands Conservation Act fund, and how it has been strengthened and increased during the past three years. In the background is Tim Abbott of the Housatonic Valley Association. Lynn Mellis Worthington Republican-American



The Vagliano property in Norfolk was held up as an example Friday in Kent on how federal Highlands Conservation Act funds can be used in partnership with both state and private donor funds to help conserve land. Lynn Mellis Worthington Republican-American

Categories

Local

Polls

Do you think Trump should be meeting with Putin?

- Yes, it's good the two are meeting.
- No, the president should have cancelled the meeting.

Vote

View Results

Polls Archive

Reader Comments

kavanaugh 1950 on Kavanaugh nomination: Empty words from senators

marshall on Judge temporarily halts deportation of reunified families

yunga7 on Putin says he wanted Trump to win in 2016, didn't interfere

blessed1 on Kavanaugh nomination: Empty words from senators

dfv831 on State DMV needs to open more bays to speed up service

Towns

Barkhamsted	Bethlehem	Bridgewater	
Burlington	Canaan	Cheshire	
Colebrook	Cornwall	Falls Village	
Goshen	Harwinton	Kent	Litchfield
Middlebury	Morris	Naugatuck	
New Hartford	New Milford CT	Norfolk	
Oxford	Plymouth	Prospect	Roxbury
Salisbury	Seymour	Sharon	Southbury
Thomaston	Torrington	Warren	
Waterbury	Watertown	Winsted	
Wolcott	Woodbury		



conservation easement that will be maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"In land conservation, you need a lot of patience and the result is things that you're preserving for generations," Klee said, noting this type of preservation is protecting some of the most biologically sensitive areas, including cold-water streams.

"In a time of climate change, we're ensuring these ecosystems and the species within them become more resilient, and have those connections and corridors," he added.

Interconnected spaces are important, Klee said, because wildlife doesn't recognize state or local boundaries.

Contact Lynn Mellis Worthington at lynnmellw@gmail.com or on Twitter @lynnmellw.

1 Share



John Landon of Salisbury and Angela Dimmitt of New Milford talk Friday in front of the map that shows the Highlands Conservation area that includes Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. Lynn Mellis Worthington Republican-American



Tim Abbott, representing Litchfield Hills Greenprint, and Lynn Werner of the Housatonic Valley Association present a \$250,000 check to Robert J. Klee, commissioner of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, for the state purchase of the Vagliano property in Norfolk on Friday in Kent. Lynn Mellis Worthington Republican-American



Tim Abbott, the Housatonic Valley Association regional conservation and Greenprint director, welcomes Robert J. Klee, commissioner of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and U.S. Sen. Christopher Murphy to Kent on Friday to showcase the work HVA and local land trusts have done with federal Highlands Conservation funding. Lynn Mellis Worthington Republican-American

Powerball for 07/14/2018
22-41-42-49-67 PB-11Next Drawing: Wed. Jul. 18Next Jackpot: \$110.0 Million; Est. Cash Value: \$67.1 Million

Mega Millions for 07/13/2018
21-22-39-59-68 MB-02 MP-2Next Drawing: Tue. Jul. 17Next Jackpot: \$375.0 Million; Est. Cash Value: \$226.7 Million

Lotto! for 07/13/2018
10-31-32-33-38-42Next Drawing: Tue. Jul. 17Next Jackpot: \$4.1 Million; Est. Cash Value: \$3,340,000

Lucky for Life for 07/12/2018
04-08-14-20-26 LB-06Next Drawing: Mon. Jul. 16

Cash5 for 07/15/2018
03-11-20-26-32



Express Log In
Sign Into REP-AM.COM and the E-Edition with one-click access

Featured Ads

SPINO'S PAVING

SPINO'S PAVING Comm'l and resid'l driveways, parking areas, plow damage repair and curbing replaced. Free estimates. Ct Lic #579761. 203-574-2547 cell 203-537-3151

Triem Industries Terryville CT

Triem Industries Terryville CT Foreman – Cold Header Single Die Two Blow – Full Time Triem is looking for a leader for our team of 11 header/set-up machine operators. Experienced...

LOG DOGS

LOG DOGS COMPLETE TREE SERVICE Lot clearing, stump grinding. Free est. 203-271-3355. 5% of every job donated to local dog rescue. www.logdogstreeremoval.com

Share this:

Facebook Twitter G+ Google WhatsApp Pinterest Reddit Tumblr More

Leave a Reply

Logged in as hvatoday. Log out?