

For Immediate Release: February 27, 2012
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Blue Hill Heritage Trust Seeks National Accreditation

Blue Hill Heritage Trust is pleased to announce that it is applying for accreditation by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTAC), which recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards in performing their land conservation work. The accreditation process involves an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs by LTAC.

As part of the accreditation application process, LTAC invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Blue Hill Heritage Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. A full list of the standards is available on the following website: <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org>. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on Blue Hill Heritage Trust's application will be most useful by May 20, 2012.

"After 25 years, it was time to take stock – to review our records, our policies, our procedures, and our long-term responsibilities for the land we own or monitor," says Jim Dow, BHHT's Executive Director. "This accreditation process motivated us to take the time to do that. It has helped prepare our organization for the future."

Blue Hill Heritage Trust is a community-based, not for profit, land conservation organization founded in 1985 by the citizens of the Blue Hill Peninsula. Its mission is to conserve land and water of special ecological, natural, agricultural, scenic, cultural and recreational significance in Blue Hill, Brooklin, Brooksville, Penobscot, Sedgwick and Surry and to increase public understanding of the importance of land and water conservation. Blue Hill Heritage Trust has conserved more than 5,840 acres of land for future generations. For more information, contact Jen at 374-5118 or visit www.bluehillheritagetrust.org.