

continued from previous page

We have several goals for our conservation projects. They include:

- Property Monitoring – acquiring baseline data for improved marking of boundaries and creating a plan for comprehensive stewardship.
- Mapping - Topographic mapping to create trail maps for public use and to identify specific geographic features such as wetlands, wildlife habitats, waterways and vernal pools.
- Conservation Planning – selecting potential future acquisitions, conducting land owner outreach, and increasing trail connectivity through regional mapping.
- Educational Outreach – working with schools to increase awareness of open space preservation, hosting class visits and making public presentations to promote awareness of WLT efforts.

We have identified mapping software developed by the DeLorme Company in Yarmouth, Maine as the software that best fits our needs. Their XMap 7 series of the software is used by several local land trusts and the company offers excellent local technical support and training. The XMap 7 Enterprise Edition of the software will allow us to take advantage of GIS information from the Town of Windham and the State of Maine.

The XMap software allows incorporation of GIS, GPS and map data. The Enterprise version accepts imported data, provides extensive editing tools and, in speaking with their representative, it is a good fit for a small organization such as WLT.

The XMap software package also comes with a handheld GPS, the Earthmate PN-40 GPS Receiver. This is a rugged waterproof instrument perfect for field work. Data from XMap software can be imported to the PN-40 and, when data is collected in the field by the PN-40, it can be exported to the XMap software.

Funds would be needed to purchase a laptop computer compatible with the requirements of the XMap software. We also propose acquiring a computer projector to aid in making public presentations.

Our goals are ambitious. We want to be good stewards to every property under our care, make them accessible to the public for recreational and educational purposes and we want to protect and preserve the natural resources available on these properties. Acquisition of the materials requested in this grant would assist WLT in establishing and maintaining accurate and timely information about our properties. It will provide the tools necessary to perform the critical strategic planning required to meet our goals.

Regards,

Priscilla Payne
Member Windham Land Trust Board of Directors