Conservation Management Plan
for the
Gillett Pond Preserve

Prepared by:

Richmond Land Trust
P.O. Box 605
Richmond, VT 05477

November 1, 2015

A. General Information

- Applicant Organization:

  Richmond Land Trust
  P.O. Box 605
  Richmond, VT 06577

- Contact Person:

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  Richmond, VT 05477
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- Name and Location of Property:

  Gillett Pond Preserve, 2203 Wes White Hill Road, Richmond, Vermont

- Acreage and Towns:

  88 acres, Town of Richmond

- Orthophoto Number:

  VT_112204_20130421
  VT_116204_20130421

- Grand List Description:

  Richmond Land Trust, 88 acres

B. Management Plan and Description of Resources

The management plan and subsequent revisions to it provide a framework for the day to day use and management of the Gillett Pond Preserve (the Preserve), acquired by the Richmond Land Trust (RLT) on February 4, 2015. RLT will carry out the management plan with the assistance of a local stewardship committee and in cooperation with Friends of Gillett Pond. The stewardship committee is currently developing management and public use recommendations for consideration by the RLT Board of Trustees. Therefore, management descriptions below are preliminary only. When the RLT Board approves management recommendations, the plan will be updated and filed with the Vermont Department of Forests and Parks in support of the Preserve's enrollment in the Use Value Appraisal Program.

Generally, the Preserve is an 88 acre wooded parcel with a 30 acre shallow pond, Gillette Pond, in the center. The Preserve is bounded by Wes White Hill Road to the west, private landowners to the north and south, and the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife to the east (Robbins Mountain Wildlife Management Area).

The Preserve was acquired from the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains (Girl Scouts) who were planning to remove the dam at the northwest corner of the pond. RLT and Friends of Gillett Pond raised funds from the communities of Richmond and Huntington to acquire the Pond, protect its natural resources, and protect public access to the Pond, which is a treasured local recreational resource.

RLT has engaged an engineering consultant to design a new dam structure. When design is complete, RLT will apply for a dam construction permit from the Facilities and Engineering Section of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

C. Attributes

The land was recently acquired by the Richmond Land Trust. A field-based natural resource inventory has not been conducted, however the attributes below have been identified from review of aerial orthophotos, the ANR Natural Resources Atlas, and from firsthand knowledge and observation. Additional information will be added to this list of attributes as more specific inventories are conducted.

1. Agricultural/Open Land

   The Preserve does not include any agricultural or open land.

2. Forest Land

   With the exception of the 30 acre pond, the entire property is forested. Most of the forest land is characterized by steep slopes along the edge of the pond. Most of the forest is characterized by mixed northern hardwood species, with a small area of hemlock-northern hardwood forest at the northern end of the pond. The Conservation Map delineates two types of forested area: Riparian Protection/Steep Slope and Other Forested Area.

3. Significant Wildlife Habitat

   An eight acre area of hemlock-northern hardwood forest at the northern end of the pond is mapped as deer wintering area by the ANR Natural Resources Atlas. In addition, the Robbins Mountain Wildlife Management Area, owned and managed by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, borders the northeastern edge of the pond.

4. Areas with Special Ecological Values

   The entire edge of the pond is designated as Riparian Protection/Steep Slopes. No other areas of special ecological value are known at this time.

5. Access to Public Waters

   Gillett Pond has an extensive history of public recreational use. In the summer and fall months the pond is used by paddlers, anglers, and nature enthusiasts. In the winter months the pond is used for skating, cross-country skiing, ice fishing, and other winter recreation. Richmond Land Trust is committed to maintaining this public access.

   Historically the public has accessed the pond on private land at the north western corner of the pond adjacent to West White Hill Road. As plans are developed to replace the dam, options for continued public access will be considered. The Conservation Map identifies an area to the south of the current dam (and location of the future dam) as Dam Maintenance/Public Access. A small parking area in this location will be developed to provide continued public access to the Preserve.

D. Management Schedule

The Preserve will be managed as conservation land with public access to the pond and riparian areas. No forest management is anticipated. The primary management activities will be:

1. Maintaining the new dam, which is anticipated to be built in the summer of 2016 or 2017, and
2. Managing public use to maintain historic recreational activities and to insure that the ecological integrity of the pond and surrounding land is not compromised.

E. Management Map

The attached Conservation Map identifies management areas: Pond/Open Water, Dam Maintenance/Public Access, Riparian Protection/Steep Slopes, and Other Forested Land. As identified above, the only area where active management is anticipated is the Dam Maintenance/Public Access area where the new dam will be constructed and where public access will be provided.

Attachment: Gillett Pond Conservation Map

Orthophoto: VT_116204_20130421
Orthophoto: VT_112204_20130421

E463,400
N206,400

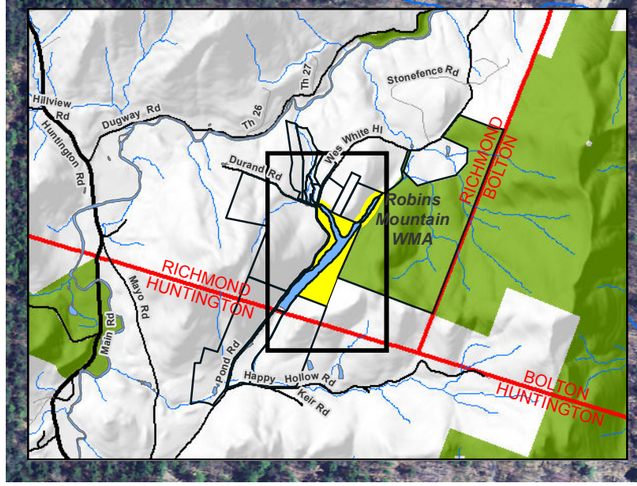
E463,000
N206,600

E463,000
N205,600

E462,600
N205,600

Vt F&W
Low, R&L
Low, J&S
Ganzenmuller, A&M
Jackson, D
Keir, D&M
Wes White Hl
Richmond
Huntington
Johns Brook
Pond Rd

1 2 3 4 5 6 7



	Grand List Acres	88	
	Orthophoto Acres	93	
	Prorate Factor	0.95	
Area	**Type**	**Map Acres**	**Prorated Acres**
Conservation Land			
1	Pond/Open Water	30.2	28.6
2	Dam Maint. /Public Access	0.5	0.5
3	Riparian Protection/Steep	5.5	5.2
4	Riparian Protection/Steep	29.7	28.1
5	Riparian Protection/Steep	9.6	9.1
6	Other Forested Land	2.4	2.2
7	Other Forested Land	15.1	14.3
	Totals:	**93.0**	**88.0**

Legend
- Terrestrial Boundary
- Shoreline Boundary
- Adjoiners Boundary
- Management Areas

Owner: Richmond Land Trust Town: Richmond, Vt. SPAN:519-163-11915 Total Acreage: 88

Richmond Land Trust: Gillett Pond UVA Conservation Map

Monday, September 21, 2015 File: GP_UVA Prepared By: A Worthley, Arrowwood Environmental Coordinate System: NAD 83, Vt State Plane, Meters 1:5,000 0 200 400 800 Feet

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