Westchester Land Trust Welcomes Esteemed Community Members To the Advisory Board of Directors & Expands Professional Staff

BEDFORD HILLS, NY— Westchester Land Trust (WLT), a regional land conservation organization with headquarters in Bedford Hills, NY, is pleased to welcome three new members to the Advisory Board of Directors—Joe Edgar of Pound Ridge, Megan Kulick of Scarsdale, and Pam Pooley of North Salem. Hailing from all corners of Westchester County, the trio brings a wealth of professional experience and talent to the nationally accredited organization. Additionally, WLT has hired two full-time staffers—Sara Powell & Shaun McCoshum—who will join the land trust’s growing team of land stewardship professionals.

Mr. Edgar comes to WLT with a strong awareness of environmental and energy issues on both the national and international levels. He received a J.D. from Pace University and an M.E.M. from Yale and currently serves as Managing Director and Counsel to the Pataki-Cahill Group. Mr. Edgar will join WLT’s Land Preservation Committee, which oversees and approves all land protection projects. He lives in Pound Ridge with his wife, Andrea, and their two children.

Ms. Kulick has over twenty years of experience as a portfolio manager and analyst in the financial services industry, most recently as a Senior Vice President at PIMCO. She will also be joining the WLT Investment Committee, lending her expertise to the management of the organization’s endowment funds. Ms. Kulick lives in Scarsdale with her husband, Mitch, and three children. She is an avid gardener and a lover of all things outdoors.

Ms. Pooley is the founder of MEADOWORKS, LLC a landscaping and garden design firm. Her work can be seen at the native plant garden located at the entrance to the Leon Levy Preserve in Lewisboro—which is protected by a WLT-held conservation easement. Ms. Pooley currently Co-Chairs the North Salem Conservation Advisory Council and writes a regular column on gardening and land stewardship in the Lewisboro Ledger. She is a board member of SPACE at Ryder Farm and provides support and leadership to the Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership, a cross-boundary conservation program co-lead by WLT. Ms. Pooley resides with her husband, Eric, and two daughters in North Salem, NY.

“WLT will benefit enormously from the diverse talents of our new Advisory Board members,” said Vice President, Kara H. Whelan. “They share a passionate commitment to land conservation and will bring insightful perspectives to both advance land protection projects and engage community members in meaningful experiences on our preserves.”

Thanks to financial support from the Land Trust Alliance and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, WLT welcomes Dr. Shaun McCooshum as the organization’s first Preserve Manager & Educator. The new position adds capacity for the care and enhancement of the 29 nature preserves WLT owns and amplifies educational programming and outreach in Westchester’s diverse communities. Dr. McCooshum holds a PhD in Zoology from Oklahoma State University, where his research focused on pollinators and native bee communities, as well as a Masters in Plant Physiology from Miami University. In addition to his work in academe, Dr. McCooshum worked with the Catalina Island Conservancy (CA) to help halt the spread of invasive plants and restore habitat for endemic and
endangered organisms. A native of the West Coast, Dr. McCoshum credits his Northern California roots as the source of his passion for the natural world.

Also joining WLT this summer is Sara Powell, who will be taking on the critical role of Land Steward—monitoring WLT’s portfolio of conservation easements which protect thousands of acres of land in Westchester and eastern Putnam Counties. Before moving to Westchester, Ms. Powell was the Monitoring & Communications Manager at the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association in Pittsburgh, PA where she developed a comprehensive water monitoring program. During her time with University of Maryland’s Center for Environmental Science, Ms. Powell helped produce the Chesapeake Bay Report Card along with other, similar ecosystem health and analysis materials. She currently resides in Pleasantville with her husband, Michael Finewood—a professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Science at Pace University.

“As our stewardship team grows—our ability to offer strategic outreach and education increases exponentially,” said Tate Bushell, WLT’s Director of Stewardship. “Sara and Shaun will each play a critical role in protecting and promoting the natural beauty of our region.”

ABOUT WESTCHESTER LAND TRUST
Based in Bedford Hills, the Westchester Land Trust works with public and private partners to preserve land in perpetuity and to enhance the natural resources in Westchester and eastern Putnam counties—a densely populated region under persistent threat from the pressures of development. Through the use of conservation easements and outright acquisition, WLT’s efforts benefit the long-term health of these communities by safeguarding air quality, food supply and community character, as well as critical watershed areas. Since its founding in 1988, WLT has preserved almost 8,000 acres of open space including more than 700-acres of preserves owned by the organization which are free and open to the public year round.

For more information about WLT, please visit westchesterlandtrust.org and connect with us on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/WLandTrust) and Instagram (@WestchesterLandTrust).