

Residents Form Conservation Trust To Preserve And Protect Brewster

By Robert Shemelgian

A Brewster real estate broker, a Conservation Commission member, a selectman and two attorneys are among the trustees of the Brewster Conservation Trust, established this week to acquire land in town for conservation and recreation.

"We hope to encourage Brewster landowners to make charitable donations of land," said Howard Hayes, principal for Bay Village Realty, and president of the trust.

"We also are seeking contributions of cash and other assets, including bequests, to purchase land for conservation and recreation, and we hope to serve as an educational force to help all of us enjoy and protect the natural resources and environment of Brewster," Mr Hayes said.

Other principals in the trust, which has been registered at the Barnstable Registry of Deeds, are Mary-Louise Eddy, vice president, Ruth Eddy, treasurer, and John Lobingier, clerk.

Mary-Louise Eddy has been involved in a range of community activities and is the town representative to the Nauset Regional School Committee. Ruth Eddy is a former clerk-treasurer and tax collector for the town, and Mr Lobingier is co-chairman of the Conservation Commission.

Other trustees include Selectman Henri Rauschenbach, attorneys Roger O'Day and Glenn Rowley, surveyor Peter Soule of Schofield Brothers, Berry



Officers in the newly-formed Brewster Conservation Trust are Howard Hayes, president, left; Mary-Louise Eddy, vice president, and John Lobingier, clerk.
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Richardson, Ernest Gage, and Kenneth B. Wood jr. Mr O'Day and Mr Rowley will serve as legal counsels for the trust, Mr Hayes said. Other local towns with private conservation trusts

Brewster Trust—Continued

include Truro, Eastham and Orleans. In Chatham there is a private conservation foundation.

Mr Hayes said members of the Orleans Conservation Trust provided the Brewster trustees with organizational help and policy guidance.

"To paraphrase our friends in Orleans," he said, "there is only so much natural land left in Brewster, and what we lose is gone, never to return. The aim of our trust will be to acquire as much natural land as possible, thereby preserving forever a portion of Brewster's natural beauty."

Mr Lobingier was asked if the new trust would compete with efforts of the town's Conservation Commission to acquire open land.

Same Goals As ConsCom

"No way will this happen," he replied. "If I had foreseen any conflict, I would not have participated in formation of the trust. The Conservation Commission and the private land trust are after the same goals. Fortunately, there is still more potential conservation land in Brewster than both organizations can hope to assimilate."

He adds that some benefactors might be more willing to donate to a private trust than to a town.

"I suppose that some people might see where town politics could come into play," Mr Lobingier.

Mr Hayes said he does not see any conflict between his position in the conservation trust and his real estate business in town.

"I don't see myself as a real estate developer. I'm a real estate broker," he said. "And I think there has to be a balance between development and conservation. The people in Brewster certainly have expressed a desire for that balance, and this trust would provide a viable alternative to development."

A good thing about the various professions held by the trustees, such as real estate, law and surveying, is that these people have contacts in the community which could lead to land donations, Mr Hayes said.

Donations to the non-profit trust are tax deductible.

"We encourage people to will land to the trust to

reduce their estate taxes," Mary-Louise Eddy said.

Membership fees to the trust are \$500 for a life membership, \$100 for a Brewster conservationist, \$75 for a sponsor, \$25 for a regular member, and less than \$25 for associate members.

The first annual meeting for members and all interested residents will be conducted Thursday, August 11, at 7:30 pm in the Community Center.