

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF PROTECTING CALAIS FARMLAND AND FORESTS
THE CALAIS CONSERVATION FUND—1996—2024

Amended February 1, 2024

Text in yellow or blue background denote VLT and/or VHCB involvement respectively.

In 1989 the voters created the Calais Conservation Fund to help protect the Town’s scenic landscape and natural heritage. Each year since then, the Town has added to the Fund, building an account that is used to help purchase or permanently protect resource lands in Calais. The Fund can be used to fund local projects or to provide the critical local matching funds required to secure state, federal, or other grants for agricultural and forest conservation projects in Calais. As of September 2023, the Fund had a balance of \$47,482.69.

Year	Parcel	Acres	Calais Fund Contribution	Total Project Cost	Benefits
1996 “A” on map	Lowry Farm, Blachly Road Parcel-212323	238 (152.5 Calais acres)	\$12,500	\$33,500	Vermont Land Trust easement. Conserved a working forest with an active sugarbush, hay meadows and pasture, a VAST easement and 1,100 feet of forested shoreline on Little Mud Pond.
1997 “B” on map	Morse Farm, Old West Church Road Parcel-450732	190	\$10,000	\$114,800	Vermont Land Trust easement. Conserved 55 acres of significant agricultural soils, protects land in the Town’s Historic District around the Old West Church and land that abuts the Bliss Pond Town Forest.
1998 “C” on map	“The Island”, west bank, Curtis Pond	2.5	\$5,500	\$27,000	Owned by Town of Calais. Protects peninsula of land on Curtis Pond for public recreational use. Keeps 1,100 feet of shoreline forested to improve water quality. Were Vermont Land Trust or VHCB funds used? Is there a conservation easement?
1998 “D” on map	VT Hist. Soc., Old West Church Road Parcel-450287	52	\$3,600	\$3,600	Vermont Land Trust easement. Protects from development 52 acres of meadows and forest between Kent Tavern and the Old West Church.
2000 “E” on map	Town Hall Lot, Kent Hill Road Parcel-B11662	1.3	\$4,200	\$4,200	Owned by Town of Calais. Transferred to Town the ownership of land on which Town Hall sits .
2001 “F” on map	Bliss Pond shore, Bliss Town Forest Part of Parcel-450850	1.5	\$2,167	\$15,000	Owned by Town of Calais. An addition of land to the Bliss Pond Town Forest. Protects 700 feet of undeveloped shoreline on north side of Bliss Pond. There is public access and a public trail crosses this tract. VT Housing and Conservation Board provided most of the funds and holds a conservation easement on this 1.5 acre portion of the town forest.
2004 “G” on map	Wheelock Parcel, Collar Hill Road Parcel-410237	99	\$3,025	\$10,700	Vermont Land Trust easement. Protects 80 acres of working forest and 20 acres of meadows; excellent wildlife habitat.
2009 “H” on map	Soule Tract, Max Gray Road Parcel 381450	20	\$3,000	\$3,000	Vermont Land Trust easement. Calais Conservation moneys used to fund legal work and processing the easement endowment. The tract is part of a recognized wildlife corridor, has scenic value to view the Kingsbury Branch valley and contributes to a VLT easement that totals 345 acres of conserved land along the east border of Calais.
2013 “I” on map	Adjacent to Chickering Bog, off Lightning Ridge	108	\$15,000	\$65,000	Owned by the Nature Conservancy. Almost doubled the size of the Chickering Bog tract, which is now 237 acres. There is a Vermont Housing and Conservation Board conservation easement and public access for hiking, hunting and bird watching.

	Road Parcel-461995 (?)				
2016 "J" on map	Armstrong Farm, Pekin Brook Road Parcel-030008	129	\$30,000	\$420,000	Vermont Land Trust easement, preserving land for agricultural and forest products use. River corridor environmental protection along Pekin Brook; public access for fishing, kayaking and hiking along Pekin Brook.
Not yet on map	Memorial Hall acquisition and renovation	TBD	\$50,000	TBD	Used in the Memorial Hall purchase and refurbishment. The Conservation Fund money was paid in two installments, the final payment took place in 2022. Vermont Housing and Conservation Board holds conservation and historic preservation easements on the property.
		--	\$15,000 --	--	THIS TRANSACTION NEVER TOOK PLACE A contribution of \$15,000 from the Fund was approved toward acquisition of a Vermont Land Trust easement on the former Legare Farm, now owned by Pete Johnson, of Pete's Greens. This transaction was not finalized and was apparently withdrawn due to changed circumstances relating to the property.