



# COASTAL MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST

Protecting land for the community, forever.

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December 28, 2023

First Light Community  
c/o New Learning Journey  
700 Bragg Hill Road  
Fayston, VT 05673

Re: Coastal Mountains Land Trust Statement of Intentions

Dear First Light Community,

The purpose of this letter is to communicate, in writing, Coastal Mountains Land Trust's intention to engage with the Wabanaki community by continuing to participate as a member of the First Light Community.

At its December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 board meeting, our Board of Directors unanimously approved the submittal of this letter containing the following statements:

Statement #1 - Mission: Engaging with the Wabanaki community to explore ways to reconnect Wabanaki people with the land is in keeping with the Land Trust's mission statement to permanently conserve land for the benefit of the natural and human communities of the western Penobscot Bay region.

Statement #2 - Building Relationships: The Land Trust is committed to building relationships with indigenous people, organizations, and tribal governments with the intent of including their voices and perspectives in the work of our organization, and is eager to explore ways to benefit and collaborate with indigenous people.

Statement #3 - Land Access: As a part of its broad commitment to fostering access and inclusion at the Land Trust, Coastal Mountains Land Trust is committed to reconnecting indigenous people and nature by opening access that can help their community to rebuild their relationship with the land.

Statement #4 - Land Return: The Land Trust will explore how we can partner with Wabanaki people as they seek to acquire and steward land for the long-term benefit of the indigenous community through the completion of specific land return projects within our service region.

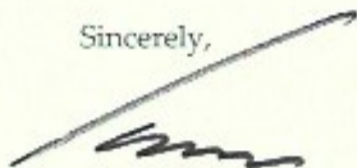
Statement #5 - Board & Staff Liaisons for First Light Role: Coastal Mountains Land Trust intends to select 1 staff and 1 board member to serve as liaisons to the First Light community on behalf of our organization.



Commitment to the Wabanaki Self-Determination Fund: The Board of Directors also approved the raising of funds, through voluntary donations from its board and staff, to be contributed in the name of Coastal Mountains Land Trust to the Wabanaki Self-Determination Fund which seeks to repair, rebuild and sustain Wabanaki relationship, kinship, access to place and to directly help Wabanaki people and institutions to fulfill their care-taking responsibilities for the lands and waters of Wabanaki Territory in what is now Maine. The Land Trust's contribution to the Wabanaki Self-Determination Fund of \$7,535 is enclosed with this letter.

As a Land Trust, we are eager to learn about and consider other ways that we might be able to support Wabanaki people as they seek to reconnect with the land and rebuild their culture and look forward to the partnership ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Stewart', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Ian Stewart  
Executive Director