Schoharie Land Trust Steering Committee
minutes of 14 November 1990 meeting

The regular meeting of the Schoharie Land Trust Steering Committee was called to order by Bob Smith at 8:04 PM at the Cooperative Extension Office in Cobleskill on Wednesday 14 November 1990

Members present:
Elliott Adams Deloris Cooper
Carroll Garner
Dorothy Garner Ken Hotopp
Dan Kelly Ken Leaycraft
Eugene McCaffrey
Mary Jo O'Donnel Carl Sand
Sandra Scouten-Ford Robert Smith
John Townsend Amy White

MEMBERSHIP: It was agreed to establish a $15 voting membership, additionally the Board of Directors will establish some higher levels of contribution.

BROCHURE: It was agreed that work should go forward on a brochure describing the Schoharie Land Trust.

DISCUSSION: This was a general discussion of the pitfalls and potentials, and innovative ideas for land trusts, including the following:

- two interlocked agencies, one a 501-c-3 and one a 501-c-2
- need to look at the farm practices on land held by trust - it is costly to maintain an easement
- "transfer tax" a tax on the rapid turn over of land - Vermont funnels transfer tax revenues into land trusts - American Farmland Trust will hold any land or easements for Schoharie Land Trust until it is incorporated and has its tax exempt status
- family can contribute a farm to a Trust and
have a lease for themselves and their progeny as long as they farm. Municipalities purchase easements and give them to a trust to administer. Small acreage could be leased for "new wave farming" - "Agribucks" a local currency sold at 90% of face value in the spring redeemable at full value for produce in fall.

LIBRARY: Schoharie Law Library will make space available for land trust information. The consensus was that other libraries would be more accessible. Perhaps each library should have a small file on land trusts.

CATSKILL CENTER is sending information on fund raising.

DEC ADVISORY BOARD lost all funding since the environmental bond act was turned down.

NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the next meeting will be on 12 Dec 1990 from 8 pm to 10 pm at the Cooperative Extension Office in Cobleskill.

MINUTES of the 10 October 1990 meeting were approved. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Elliott D. S. Adams
Recording Secretary, pro tem.