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KLT Conservation Burial Timeline

Spring 2007 – June, 2019

Spring 2007: Land Trust Alliance publishes “Final Stop for Land Trusts in Saving Land”, featuring the Ramsey Creek Preserve in South Carolina, a conservation burial site with an easement held by Upstate Forever. This serves as KLT’s introduction to the concept of conservation burial.

2008-2014: KLT members including Mary Bayer and Leon Bresloff discuss interest in conservation burial with Theresa Kerchner, (TK) KLT Executive Director and Directors.

June-August 2016: KLT intern Josh Caldwell researches the emerging trend of green burial in Maine. Writes research paper, KLT Green Cemetery Paper, and informational brochure, Green Cemetery Brochure.

Josh and TK communicate with Lynn Roberts Reed of Knowlton Hewins & Roberts Funeral Home; staff and board members of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Maine, Chuck Lakin and Alison Rector, and Joyce Foley, of Cedar Brook Burial Ground.

August 2016: Josh presents research to KLT’s membership during the Trust’s annual meeting.

January-February 2017: After reading Josh Caldwell’s brochure, KLT members Paul Kuehnert and Judith Graber communicate with TK, express strong support of a KLT conservation burial initiative. Pledge funding, including a matching grant. Theresa presents donor and preliminary project information to President Mary Denison and Amy Trunnell, Treasurer, (January) and KLT Board of Directors during February 8 Board meeting. KLT’s conservation burial project is officially launched.

November 2017: KLT staff members, TK, Jean Luc Theriault, and Kirsten Brewer; Jane Arbuckle from the Maine Coast Heritage Trust; and Dave Rocque, Maine State Soil Scientist, visit Maine’s two green cemeteries, Rainbow’s End in Orrington and Cedar Brook Burial Ground in Limington. Meet with Joyce Foley (Cedar Brook) & Joan Howard (Rainbow’s End).

Kim Vandermeulen, KLT VP, attorney, and business owner, agrees to assist TK with legal and businesses questions, and suggests that we meet with Finance Authority of Maine, Brad Swanson, staff.

January 2018: Dave Rocque (DR) authors ‘Guidelines for the Selection and Development of Green Cemeteries in Maine’, which includes information on site selection for a conservation burial ground.

Winter 2018: Using DR’s soil analysis, Jean Luc Theriault (JL), KLT Stewardship Director, overlays soil types identified in DR’s paper on KLT’s 412,000 acre service. TK and JL review service area soil maps and begin focusing on a site in Fayette. The parcel has favorable site conditions and is on a ridgetop. The land is owned by long time KLT supporters and easement donors. TK sends conservation burial information to landowners.



March 2018: Jack Daley, Freshman, Harvard College, accepts summer internship with KLT. Jack notes that he would like to work on KLT's conservation burial project for his summer research project.

April 4, 2018: TK and Kim V. meet with Brad Swanson, small business development expert at Maine CEI, with Jack Daley, 2018 summer intern, on conference call from Harvard College.

May 4, 2018: TK, Jean-Luc Theriault, KLT Stewardship Director, and Dave Rocque, Maine State Soil Scientist, meet with landowners at their home in Fayette. They walk the land, and Dave evaluates site conditions. He notes that sections of this parcel appear to be ideal for a conservation burial ground.

TK calls Mark Robinson, Fayette Town Manager, and provides a summary of KLT's proposed plan to establish a conservation burial property in Fayette. Mark was supportive.

June 2018: KLT volunteer attorneys, Howard Lake, Mary Denison, and Kim V. meet with TK to discuss Maine cemetery laws and KLT's conservation burial project.

JL conducts a site visit with Jed Talbot of Off the Beaten Track Trail Works. JL and Jed discuss proposed accessible trails, road development, site conditions.

Kim V., KLT VP, presents project update to Board of Directors, June 13.

June 25-August 19, 2018: Jack Daley, KLT summer intern, focuses his summer research on KLT's conservation burial project. Jack authors a research paper and an Educational Brochure for KLT members.

July 10, 2018: Jeff Masten, of LandMatters, meets with KLT staff, Kim V., and Jack Daley.

August 2018: Jack presents his research summary and brochure during KLT's 30th anniversary meeting. <https://www.tklit.org/past-interns-and-research>

August 13, 2018: KLT Lands Committee visits the site of the proposed Conservation Burial ground, with Harold Burnett of Two Trees Forestry, for viewshed and forest management discussions.

Late August - September 2018: TK continues to communicate with landowners. Howard Lake, KLT attorney, and TK meet with landowners on September 26 to discuss a letter of intent that will document KLT's interest in purchasing several parcels in Fayette, including the conservation burial parcel.

September 1, 2018: Theresa meets with long time KLT members (Wayne & MA) and presents an overview of conservation burial project, including fundraising goals. Family visits the Fayette site and corresponds after their site visit, donates to project.

September 5, 2018: KLT Lands Committee meeting. Lands Committee votes to support Conservation Burial land acquisition.

October 12-14, 2018: Kim V, JL, Kirsten B. attend LTA Rally, Pittsburgh; participate in Landmatters (Heidi Hannapel, Jeff Masten) *Dying for Conservation* workshop with Tom Kay, Alachua Conservation Trust, Florida; Jeff Corney, The Wilderness Center and Foxfield Preserve, Ohio; Laura Starkey, Heartwood Preserve Conservation Cemetery, Florida.

JL visits Foxfield Preserve, Ohio.

November 2018: KLT Board of Directors meeting. Board approves purchase of Conservation Burial Ground land pending appraisal and negotiations with landowners, final review of Conservation Burial operations and scope.

December 2018: KLT President, Kim Vandermeulen, and KLT Directors, Howard Lake and Mary Denison, meet with KLT staff. A timeline and a set of tasks for Conservation Burial project are developed. The fall of 2020 is determined as a tentative time frame for opening the cemetery.

December 2018: TK and JL meet with Jed Talbot of Off the Beaten Track Trail Works. Topics include a rough timeline for an accessible trail project, a completed forest management plan (Harold Burnett, Two Trees Forestry), and timber harvesting.

January - February 2019: KLT negotiations with landowners take place.

February 20, 2019: Board unanimously approves the purchase of the Conservation Burial Ground property. KLT directors and Howard Lake, KLT General Counsel, research Maine cemetery laws.

February 25, 2019: Howard Lake and TK meet with Arn and Leda Sturtevant. Purchase and Sale Agreement for Conservation Burial Ground property signed.

March 2019: Project development continues: communications with Fayette CEO, Town Manager, Road Commissioner, and Sexton. Mary Denison, KLT Director and Volunteer Attorney, Jean Luc, and Theresa prepare for April 22 Fayette Planning Board hearing.

April 6, 2019: Maine Land Trust Conference. TK, JL, Howard Lake, Dave Rocque, Jeff Masten present workshop: *Conservation Opportunities, Site Location, Stewardship, & Legal Issues* focused on KLT's conservation burial initiative, successful projects across the country, and governance, stewardship, legal, technical, and financial issues.

April 22, 2019 Fayette Planning Board approves Conservation Burial Ground project. An abutter with a home ~ 0.25 miles from Burial Ground notes that they may file an appeal. Abutters did not attend Planning Board hearing and did not appeal during the 30 day appeal window after April 22.

May 7, 2019 James A. Jacobsen, Water Operator Licensing Coordinator, Maine Department of Health and Human Services and Maine Center for Disease Control, Division of Environmental and Community Health Drinking Water Program, Engineering Review Team approves KLT's Conservation Burial Ground application.

June 3, 2019 KLT purchases property for Conservation Burial Ground, 90 acres, Fayette. The sellers, Arn and Leda Sturtevant, have a long history of supporting the Trust.

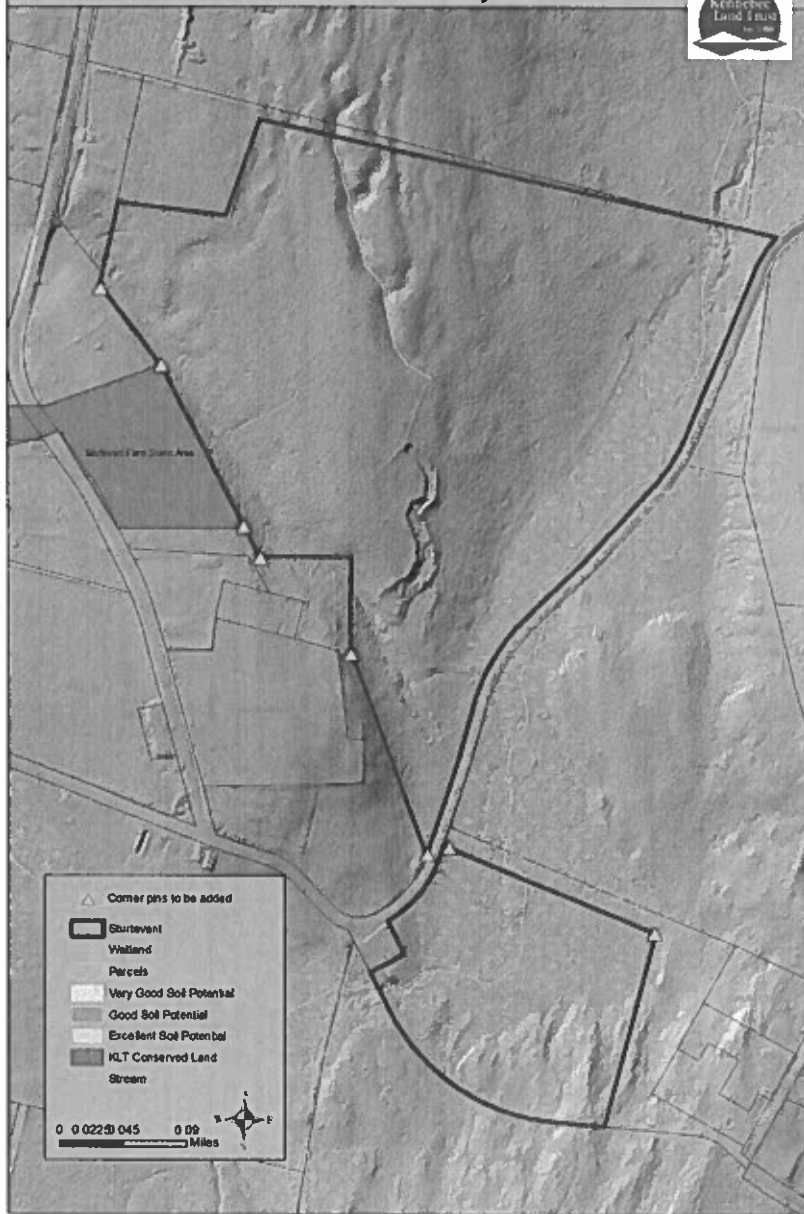
June 10 Site work begin.

Theresa Kerchner, KLT Executive Director tkerchner@tklt.org

Jean-Luc Theriault, KLT Stewardship Director jtheriault@tklt.org

Kennebec Land Trust
90-acre Baldwin Hill Conservation Area and Burial Ground

Sturtevant - Boundary work



▲ Corner pins to be added

▭ Sturtevant

▭ Wetland

▭ Parcels

▭ Very Good Soil Potential

▭ Good Soil Potential

▭ Excellent Soil Potential

▭ KLT Conserved Land

▭ Stream

0 0.022 0.045 0.09 Miles



Kennebec Land Trust Proposed Baldwin Hill Conservation Burial Ground

Location: Baldwin Hill, Access from Fayette Corner Road

Overview:

The Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) is proposing to develop a conservation burial ground on Baldwin Hill. The Trust's eight acre cemetery would be part of a larger 70-acre KLT conservation property. The proposed cemetery site is in a location where the soils are suited to this land use. *

The cemetery would be open year-round. Grave digging and interment would be carried out by a contractor.

In developing this initiative, we sought technical support and guidance from Maine State Soil Scientist Dave Rocque, funeral home businesses, the Green Burial Council, and community members.

What is a Conservation Burial Ground?

A conservation burial ground is a type of green/natural cemetery that is established in partnership with a conservation organization and commits to perpetual protection and monitoring. It includes a conservation management plan that upholds best practices. The practice of conservation burial, as defined by the Green Burial Council, takes place in a 10+ acre natural, conserved area and uses only natural burial materials.

Conservation burial grounds, environmentally friendly cemeteries, do not allow chemical embalming or the use of cement vaults. Remains are buried in biodegradable caskets and shrouds or a simple wooden box.

Graves:

Graves will be approximately three feet deep or less since the majority of the microbial activity in soils takes place within the upper soil horizons and in the organic duff layer. Two to three feet of soil will be placed in a mound above each grave to further assist in the decomposition process. This soil will be used to level the ground and for revegetating the grave with native plants.

A naturally collected native stone can be engraved and used to mark the resting place.

Note: As you go deeper in soil, microbial activity decreases significantly and plant roots become fewer and fewer. In burials that are five or six feet deep, decomposition is very slow and there likely are no plant roots (including most trees) to take up nutrients generated from a decomposing body.

Project Details:

The property has been carefully evaluated by KLT staff and Maine state soil scientist Dave Rocque. The field tests show that the soil is glacial till soil, which is ideal for decomposition because it is well drained, deep to bedrock, not rocky, and sufficiently high in silt and clay content. Moreover, the burial sites will be well above the seasonal groundwater table, which greatly reduces the risk of groundwater contamination. Aesthetically, the property features a gently sloped hillside which, with a little clearing, will yield beautiful views of the surrounding rolling hills.

Site Preparation:

Prior to the opening of the cemetery, KLT will coordinate a range of site preparation projects including:

Road building: -a 0.5 mile dirt road leading to the cemetery will be open year around. Parking will be available along the cemetery road.

Forest management: KLT has hired Two Trees Forestry to develop a forest management plan. The main goals for the property are to thin the forest in and around the burial ground, create a viewshed, earn income from timber harvesting, and manage the woodlands for late successional forest stands.

Plot surveying: KLT will GPS the location of every plot using a survey-grade GPS receiver. Plots will be organized along trails. All graves will be identified on a map and stored in a GIS data base. This information will be available to the public.

Operations:

Families using KLT's cemetery will contract with funeral homes and a sexton for services and burial.

KLT will establish a 501c(13) and will manage a perpetual care fund.

KLT will have full responsibility for the long term care and management of the cemetery land and the surrounding conservation property.

Additional information:

See: Kennebec Land Trust brochure: *Conservation Burial Initiative* by Jack Daley, KLT 2018 intern.
<https://www.tklt.org/past-interns-and-research>

Green Burial Council website: https://www.greenburialcouncil.org/green_burial_defined.html

* Dave Rocque, Maine State Soil Scientist: GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN CEMETERIES IN MAINE January 22, 2017. <https://www.tklt.org/s/Green-Cemetery-Guidelines-2-924k.pdf>

