

James Faulkner, Charlotte Selectboard Chair
Mathew Krasnow, Charlotte Tree Warden
Nathaniel Bareham, Town Administrator
Town of Charlotte
Charlotte Town Hall
159 Ferry Road
Charlotte, VT 05445

June 10, 2024

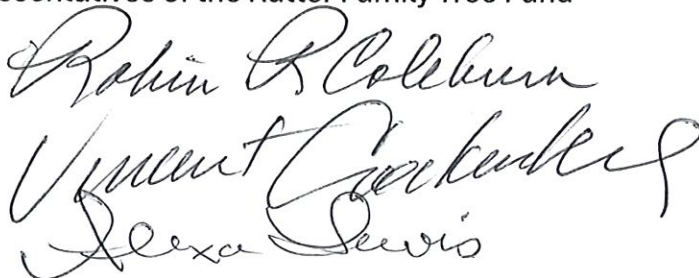
To the Selectboard and the Tree Warden

There appears to be a misunderstanding about the use of donated funds that we are seeking to clear up and formalize. The "Tree Warden" page on the Charlotte Town website currently describes the "Rutter Tree Fund" as a source of funding administered by the town clerk and under the control of the tree warden. That is not the case. The original intent was to work cooperatively with the Town's tree warden to fund tree purchase, planting and maintenance as recommended by an advisory committee which included at least one member of the Rutter family. When the fund was established over a decade ago there were several significant contributions by the Rutter family; and while not the sole contributors, the family remains the primary source of funding.

The recent accounting for, and the selectboard's basic understanding of, the donated funds has not been clear or consistent. We wish to remedy those issues. In April of this year, when Jim Faulkner professed confusion over the administration and purpose of the fund, he asked Town Counsel, Joseph McLean, advice on how to proceed. Counsel advised that the selectboard should sit down with the major donors and work it out. To date, this has not been done. Therefore, the donor representatives would like to be added to the next available Selectboard agenda to discuss an appropriate resolution. It is our hope this can be worked out amicably without resorting to legal action.

In the meantime, we ask that the references to the fund be removed from the Town website. To leave the statement up on the Tree Warden page is inappropriate and misleading. Thank you for your immediate attention to this request.

Regards,
Representatives of the Rutter Family Tree Fund
By:


Robin R. Colburn
Vincent G. Corbridge
Alexa Lewis