



Charlotte Selectboard
Charlotte Planning and Conservation Commissions
c/o Nate Bareham
Charlotte Town Offices
PO Box 119
Charlotte, VT 05445

September 2024

Dear Charlotte Selectboard, Planning and Conservation Commissions:

The Lewis Creek Association (LCA) respectfully requests Charlotte's financial support for FY 2025-26 in the amount of **\$3,300.00**. Thanks to Charlotte's annual financial support, LCA continues to manage annual programs that track water quality trends, wildlife habitat and stream corridor conditions, as well as facilitate restoration and conservation projects in Charlotte's Lewis Creek, LaPlatte River, and "Direct to Lake" watershed areas. By keeping track of actual natural resource conditions in Charlotte, we are able to better understand local resource issues and apply this information to land use and clean water improvement plans and projects.

This past year, LCA shared water quality results in a storymap format with town Conservation Commissions and state water quality officials, participated in water quality and flood resiliency improvement efforts, and the Water Quality Stewardship Program in Charlotte and Shelburne (including invasive plant removal in Town Farm Bay). LCA is managing the "Ahead of the Storm" initiative, which increases awareness and promotes water quality stewardship in our area, and we held a talk on water quality in Charlotte. We completed a manual that will help landowners determine how best to improve stormwater management in their neighborhood, and help them understand why this is important. Finally, we partnered with the Oriane Society to complete abundance surveys for native riparian species, prioritize projects, and propose for restoration work. LCA also works with area towns, conservation commissions, and land trusts, including Charlotte Land Trust, sharing local natural resource information, and facilitating flood resiliency protection opportunities in our region.

Charlotte's \$600.00 contribution is expected to help LCA administer these annual programs, including more than \$150,000 of special grant-funded projects in the middle Lake Champlain area. The remainder (\$2,700.00) supports our Water Quality Stewardship Program, as described in the attached document. Thank you very much for supporting this community service work. LCA board members Myra Handy, Zoe Sheldon, Stephen Hale and I would be pleased to visit with you to answer any questions and to discuss Charlotte needs for the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Kate Kelly
Program Manager

LCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF: *Callie Douglass, Louis duPont, Peter Erb, Abel Fillion, Stephen Hale, Myra Handy, Megan McBride, Andrea Morgante, Chris Runcie, Zoe Sheldon, Kate Kelly (Program Manager), Sara Lovitz (Program Assistant), and Stevie Spencer (Treasurer)*