

NORTHWOODS STEWARDSHIP CENTER

Connecting people and place through science, education and action

December 3, 2021

Town of Charleston
5063 VT Rte 105
West Charleston, VT 05872

Dear Members of the Charleston Selectboard,

I am writing to respectfully request the Town of Charleston renew support for NorthWoods Stewardship Center through an annual appropriation of \$800 at Town Meeting.

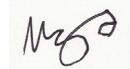
NorthWoods offers widespread conservation and educational services and is supported through the generosity of individuals, local communities, charitable grants and fee-for-service contracts. We provide reduced-cost educational programs, summer Conservation Corps jobs for local youth, and a variety of practical workshops for adults throughout the year. This summer was record-breaking with 120 employees at peak season.

NorthWoods continues its active role in the Charleston community. NorthWoods offers discounted weekly winter outdoor recreation programming for middle school students, a week-long summer school program, and year-long after school programming where we highly appreciate and awareness of the trails, waterways, mountains and natural communities of the Charleston area. We leverage funding from the Echo Lake Protective Association to subsidize the Echo Lake Explorers program.

NorthWoods' Forest Stewardship staff worked with landowners in Charleston to prepare forest management plans, sustainably harvest timber and identify rare plants and natural communities along the Clyde River, while providing recommendations for sustainable forest management practices. NorthWoods maintained skiing/hiking trails on our 1,166 acres of land in Charleston and partnered with the Echo Lake Protective Association to maintain the Echo Lake Shore Trail and address invasive species concerns. These trails are open to the public for non-motorized recreation and residents of Charleston are invited to use the trails for free.

We invite all Charleston residents to visit NorthWoods to enjoy a ski, paddle, or nature hike or to join us for one of our landowner education programs. Continued support from the Town of Charleston is critical to the success of these programs and *we appreciate your support!* Thank you. I am happy to respond to any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Maria Young, Executive Director

PO Box 220 / 154 Leadership Drive, East Charleston, VT 05833 802-723-6551

www.northwoodscenter.org