



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

*Town of Richmond founded in 1765  
250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2015*

### The Richmond Civic Association 2019 Calendars are here!

Available at Town Hall, the library,  
post office, and Bartlett's.

### Richmond Reads

Free parent/child playgroup for  
kids up to age 5  
Meets Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.  
to 10:30 a.m.

Richmond School Library  
Circle time, stories, songs, crafts  
& more!

Contact Jessica Maloney at  
413-464-5095 or  
southberkshirekids@gmail.com

### Council on Aging Coordinator Phyllis LeBeau

Office hours at Town Hall  
Monday through Thursday  
10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Contact at 698-3656 or  
coa@richmondma.org

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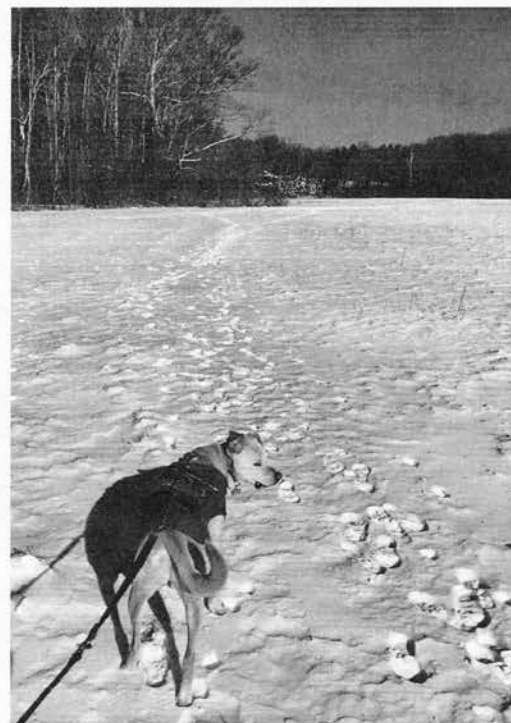
## Protecting Perry's Peak

By John Keenum

The Richmond Land Trust (RLT) recently announced a campaign to permanently protect a 340-acre tract of land in the northwest corner of town that includes Perry's Peak. RLT has long recognized the importance of protecting Perry's Peak and its surrounding landscape. Together with generous landowners and supporters, the RLT has partnered with the Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) to conserve and open this land to the public. Protecting this landscape is a worthy goal; it is rich with cultural features, contains the headwaters of Scace Brook and Sleepy Hollow Brook, and protects a newly connected wildlife and recreation corridor. The Richmond Land Trust will embark on a capital campaign in 2019 to purchase and protect one of the last large parcels of land in this area.

As early as 2002, property around Perry's Peak began to be preserved permanently when Louis Kingman donated a conservation restriction on a portion of the Peirson Place property. By the end of 2012, the BNRC had acquired over 130 acres of land adjacent to the Pierson Place conserved property through gifts from Ronald and Judith Shaw and a management agreement for a parcel owned by the town of Richmond. Named Hollow Fields Reserve, this area of open meadows and woodlands is a popular destination for hikers, dog walkers, and bird watchers. The Richmond Land Trust, through a combination of donation and purchase, holds the conservation restriction, which extinguished the development rights on the land and ensured its preservation as open space in perpetuity. A gift of three adjoining parcels totaling 180 acres from the Robertson family doubled the size of the reserve two years ago. Now, an effort is underway to double the size of that reserve again, by purchasing 340 acres of forested land in Richmond, stretching west of the existing reserve to the New York state line.

BNRC has signed an option to purchase the property for \$355,000 from the Berkshire Farm Center for Youth Services,



*Photo by Jack Ringler*

*Yokun enjoying a stroll in the snow at Hollow Fields.*

headquartered in Canaan, New York, with a deadline to complete the project by the end of 2019. The town of Richmond through the Conservation Commission has joined in partnership with BNRC and RLT to underwrite the purchase price as well as an additional \$20,000 in legal, surveying, administrative, and trail-improvement costs. Each of the three partners will contribute \$125,000 toward the total project cost of \$375,000. In November the Conservation Commission voted unanimously to contribute \$125,000 from the town's conservation fund, and the select board approved the expenditure. BNRC has applied for an \$85,000 grant from the state and has committed to giving or raising an additional \$40,000 for its share. The Richmond Land Trust is launching a capital campaign in 2019 to raise its \$125,000 share and has collected about one-quarter of that total in advance of a public announcement of the campaign. The fund-raising campaign will run through the end of the year and will

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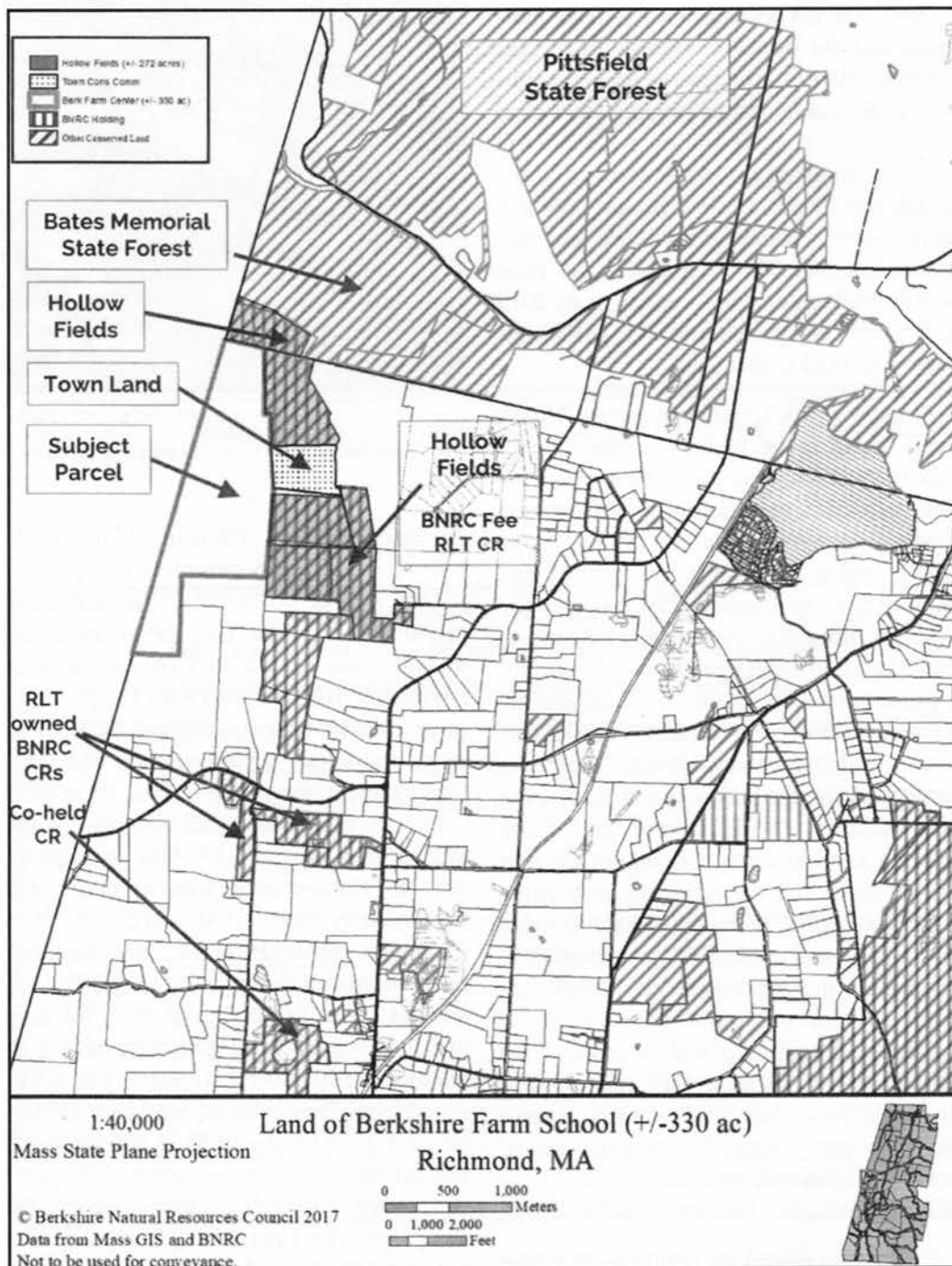
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accept pledges payable by December 31, 2020.

Eighteen years ago, the Richmond Land Trust ran a successful capital campaign to raise \$60,000. Those funds were used to purchase 30 acres of property along the western side of Swamp Road in the area known as "the cathedral" for the majestic trees shading the road. Members of the RLT board of directors have demonstrated their commitment to the Berkshire Farm effort with early gifts, and are confident that the people of Richmond will join in supporting this important effort with enthusiasm and generosity.

Acquiring this property increases land permanently preserved in Richmond by about 25 percent; fills a key gap in approximately 12,000 acres of nature preserves, including Bates Memorial State Park and Pittsfield State Forest stretching to the north; and ensures access to historic Perry's Peak and to hiking trails linking with the Taconic Skyline and Taconic Crest Trails, which continue on as far as Burlington, Vermont. The trails on this property and their connections will enhance BNRC's High Road initiative to link the cities and towns throughout the county and encourage outdoor recreation and tourism. ■



*Provided by Berkshire Natural Resources Council*

*Map of the land parcels being protected.*



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