**Robert Brayley**

**Independent Study Proposal** -

**DEL-MEM Fall 2010 Semester**

**Advisor, Norm Christensen**

Norm,

Following is a brief description of the independent study I propose for this semester. Sherri has provided me a course and permission number and all I need is your agreement on the scope and to assign a credit value.

The objective of this IP is to become educated on the management of conservation easements. This is in support of my MP which includes development of a stewardship plan for the Little Compton Agricultural Trust. The IP, entitled **Conservation Easement Stewardship,** will consist of independent reading of relevant literature and attendance at two workshops presented by the National Land Trust Alliance. A description of the reading and workshops is provided below.

Key concepts from the independent learning that need to be addressed in the Ag Trust’s stewardship plan will be summarized in a 3-5 page (double spaced) memo to be completed by December 10, 2010.

Books and Literature:

1. Land Trust Standards and Practices, Revised, The Land Trust Alliance, 2004
2. Land Trust Standards and Practices Guidebook; An Operating Manual for Land Trusts, Vol. 1 and 2, Revised, Editors Sylvia K. Bates and Tammara Van Ryan, 2006
3. Managing Conservation Easements in Perpetuity, Leslie Ratley-Beach, 2009
4. Conservation Easement Stewardship, Renee Bouplon and Brenda Lind, 2008

Educational courses offered by the National Land Trust Alliance at their annual conference in Hartford CT:

**SEM-9**

Managing Conservation Easements

in PerpetuityCLE

Jane Ellen Hamilton, Leslie Ratley-Beach

Saturday, October 2, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Intermediate | $165/$195

*Standards and Practices Curriculum*

This curriculum course covers the essentials of recordkeeping

and enforcing easements and covers practices

9G Recordkeeping and 11E Enforcement of Easements.

The course will address how easement holders identify and

manage records, including digital records, in accordance

with an adopted records policy. It will also assist attendees

in understanding the critical relationship between easement

permanence, good landowner relations and recordkeeping.

The session concludes by addressing conservation easement

enforcement, including how to craft a violation policy

and procedures, the steps involved in resolving violations,

practical lessons learned about easement defense, funding

easement defense and preventing or mitigating easement

violations. Each participant will receive a copy of *Managing*

**SEM-27**

Conservation Easement Stewardship

Laurel Florio

Sunday, October 3, 8:00am – 4:00pm

All Levels | $165/$195

*Standards and Practices Curriculum*

Are you prepared to care for your easement until the end

of time? This seminar will help prepare you to manage this

critical responsibility. This course will give you an overview

of how to monitor your easements and build long-term

relationships with landowners (the key to long-term success

with easements). You will learn the different methods

for monitoring easements; how to select and implement

the method that works best for your land trust; and how

to use a baseline documentation report to protect the

land. Designed for all levels of expertise, this course covers

the land trust’s responsibilities AFTER the conservation

easement is in place and practically applies the *Land Trust*

*Standards and Practices* pertaining to ongoing stewardship

and easement permanence. Perpetuity is a long time! Each

participant will receive a copy of *Conservation Easement*

*Stewardship* by Renee Bouplon and Brenda Lind.