



For immediate release

September 7, 2018

Contact: Alex Moot:

amoot@chocorualakeconservancy.org

781-526-1572

NH LCHIP Helps the Chocorua Lake Conservancy Protect Iconic View of the Basin
Critical easement purchased on historic Bowditch property

With support from the NH Land and Community Investment Program (LCHIP), the Chocorua Lake Conservancy (CLC) has purchased a Conservation Easement to preserve in perpetuity an important parcel of land on the west side of Route 16 overlooking the Chocorua Lake Basin, which is the vantage point for the famous view of Chocorua Lake, the Narrows Bridge, Mount Chocorua, and the historic barn on the property. The owners of the parcel, Chippy Co., are the descendants of the Bowditch family, whose historic stewardship of this property and other Basin land contributed so much to the preservation of this scenic icon.

This historic view of the Chocorua Lake Basin was chosen to represent the State of New Hampshire on its 2013 “America the Beautiful” quarter and is the eastern gateway to the White Mountains. It is reportedly one of the most photographed scenes in New England.

Bowditch Family – Legacy of Conservation

The Chocorua Lake Conservancy’s two predecessor organizations were created in 1968 by members of the Chocorua Lake Basin community, including representatives of several branches of the Bowditch family, who were concerned about the effect of future development pressures on one of the most iconic landscapes of the Northeast. This agreement continues and memorializes both parties’ long history of conservation and stewardship.

“The Conservancy has given us a great opportunity to honor the Bowditch legacy and the work put in by Samuel I. Bowditch and James R. Bowditch, as well as an opportunity for us to show our love for this area and its residents,” said Bill Vander Clute on behalf of the Bowditch family.

Members of Chippy Co. are the descendants of Sam and Polly Bowditch, Jim Bowditch, and Faith Bowditch. All are direct descendants of Charles P. Bowditch, an early conservationist and



one of the founders of the Chocorua Lake community in the late 19th century. Both Sam Bowditch and Jim Bowditch served for many years on the board of one of the Conservancy's predecessor organizations. In 2006, Jim Bowditch conceived and carried through to its completion the awarding of the coveted "National Historic District" status to the Chocorua Lake Basin and its viewshed, the largest such district in New England. The Chocorua Lake Basin Historic District covers more than 6,000 acres surrounding Chocorua Lake.

For 140 years, the Bowditch family has carefully preserved the vista, the historic barn, and the stone walls. Family members have also kindly allowed visitors to park and walk on the property, take photographs, and set up their painting easels, especially during the fall foliage season. This comprehensive easement will continue the practices which the Bowditch family has always followed.

Iconic view featured on the second NH quarter protected forever

The new perpetual conservation easement on the parcel prohibits any additional structures from ever being built to preserve the iconic view. A portion of the property will be designated for a few off-highway parking spots and a public access area for visitors to forever enjoy the historic view.

"The view of Chocorua Lake and Mount Chocorua from Route 16 has been recognized by New Hampshire as the emblem of the state's natural beauty," said Alex Moot, Board President of the Chocorua Lake Conservancy. "The Conservancy is honored to play a part in preserving it for the local community and for visitors from across the nation and the world. This project is a tribute to 140 years of stewardship of this property by the Bowditch family and is a fitting monument to their leadership in preserving the Chocorua Basin."

The project is supported in part by a grant from New Hampshire's Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), demonstrating the state's recognition of the importance of preserving the iconic view. Additional support has been provided by the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation and the Fields Pond Foundation, as well as by contributions large and small from those who love the Chocorua Lake Basin. The Tamworth Foundation awarded a challenge grant in support of CLC's ongoing "Timeless Chocorua" campaign, one element of which is the acquisition of this Conservation Easement. To date, over 300 households have donated to the "Timeless Chocorua" campaign, including over 100 households from over 50 towns and cities across New Hampshire.



About the Chocorua Lake Conservancy:

The CLC is a volunteer-led, nonprofit land trust founded in 1968 to protect the scenic and natural resources of the Chocorua Lake Basin and surrounding area, acreage that includes shorefront and wetlands supporting a diversity of unusual plants and animals. The CLC is committed to providing convenient and attractive public access to Chocorua Lake and trails on nearby conservation lands for visitors and local residents. For more information including ways you can get involved, please visit www.chocorualake.org.