

## **St. Simons Land Trust Public Notice**

The St. Simons Land Trust has been an accredited member of the national Land Trust Alliance since 2015. The Alliance recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. We are pleased to announce that the Land Trust is applying for renewal of its accreditation, a process that takes place every five years, and that a public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. "While this is an exhaustive, months-long process that requires work from our staff and board and input from numerous environmentalists and conservation experts, this is a critically important analysis of the Land Trust's processes, procedures, and outcomes," according to Emily Ellison, executive director of SSLT. "We review everything from land management plans to accounting protocols to strategic priorities, HR issues, and best practices. While this is the kind of self-evaluation all non-profit organizations should conduct annually, it is helpful to have a deadline and have someone ask questions that we might not consider when we are in the weeds of day-to-day work. In addition, it means a great deal to be an accredited member of the Alliance and shows the lengths that we and our land trust partners go to ensure professionalism and adhere to highest standards."

The Accreditation Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how St. Simons Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org), or email your comment to [info@landtrustaccreditation.org](mailto:info@landtrustaccreditation.org). Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.