Background Information

Dick Valentine left the Valentine Farm property and the house to MLT in his will. The board voted to accept the gift on July 5, 2015 and the property was transferred to MLT from Dick Valentine's estate on April 5, 2016.

Property Description and History

Spring Grove Farm

The land was the site of the Spring Grove Farm established in the mid-1800s. Long the home of the Valentine family, the farm on the North Road just west of Mayville furnished summer sojourners of the 1880s and 1890s with a quiet retreat that was only a few minutes ride by wagon from the Grand Trunk Railway station. Many of Bethel's visitors found the privacy and rural settings of such farms preferable to the village hotels then available.

Valentine Farm consists of 148.3 acres split between two parcels on either side of the North Road near the airport in Bethel. The north parcel contains 110.8 acres of forest with significant deer wintering area. An easement held by the State of Maine restricts tree height to maintain flight clearances for the adjacent airport. The north parcel is the site of the original homestead and contains a small cabin and old barn. Several old logging roads are found on the north parcel.
The south parcel contains 37.5 acres with a variety of habitats including floodplain with prime agricultural soils, hay fields, and mature mixed forest. The south parcel contains a two-story building that is in the process of being converted into MLT’s main offices and an environmental education center. The south parcel consists of two distinct areas: the upper area, which contains the newer house built in 1980, mixed forest and two hay fields; and the lower area, located in the floodplain, which contains a small stream and wetland and an agricultural field, planted in hay, but for the previous three year with corn. A steep bank separates the upper and lower areas. At the base of the bank runs a small stream that originates. The lower field contains 600 feet of Androscoggin River shoreline.