



# Wintonbury Land Trust Annual Meeting

June 15, 2021



# Annual Meeting 6/15/2021 Agenda

1. Welcome (Christopher Shepard)
2. President's Report (Vic Herson)
3. Election of Directors (Christopher Shepard)
4. Treasurer's report (Sue Petke)
5. Land acquisition: how & why (Dale Bertoldi)
6. Stewardship: how & why (Vikki Reski & John Capadona)
7. Connecting People with Nature
  - Trails (Dale Bertoldi)
  - Events (Sharon Mann)
  - Communications (Christopher Shepard)
8. Membership highlights (Alexa Tzanova)
9. Plans for next year/capital needs (Vic Herson)
10. Questions & Answers: open
11. Adjournment with Photo Slide Show & Social Time





## Executive Summary 2020-2021

*Vic Herson,  
President*

### Why do we exist?

*“To promote the preservation, improvement, protection, and conservation of natural resources for the benefit of the community.”*

### How do we do this?

- *Acquire land: 300 acres*
- *Maintain our land (stewardship)*
- *Connect people with the land (trails, guided walks, talks/webinars)*
- *All-volunteer organization (contracted bookkeeper)*

### What enables us to do this?

*Community support! Volunteers, members, donors, & grants*

### Highlights:

- *Land acquisition*
- *Stewardship*
- *Community engagement*
- *Community support*





## Election of Board of Directors

*Christopher Shepard,  
Secretary*

### **Slate of Nominees:**

- Sten Caspersson, returning, July 2021 - June 2024
- Paula Jones, returning, July 2021 - June 2024
- Christopher Shepard, returning, July 2021 - June 2023
- Alexa Tzanova, returning, July 2021 - June 2024
- Patty Connolly, new, July 2021 - June 2022

Retired Trinity College events director and professional fundraiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Currently an events organizer for Old St. Andrew's Church.

- Sue Petke, new, July 2021 - June 2022

Agile Product Owner Senior Advisor at Cigna. Volunteer at Our Companions Animal Rescue and Appalachian Mountain Club-CT Chapter. An avid hiker and cyclist.

### **Current Directors:**

- Vic Herson, July 2019 - June 2022
- Sharon Mann, July 2019 - June 2022
- Dale Bertoldi, July 2020 - June 2023

**Retiring:** With great appreciation we look forward to working with you in other roles!

- Jim Trail



## Financial Highlights

*Sue Petke ,  
Treasurer*

### Income

- ✓ \$17,637 Wine & Dine Event
- ✓ \$18,520 Annual Appeal
- ✓ \$4,250 other contributions
- ✓ \$5,770 Membership Dues

### Expenses

- ✓ Operational Expenses (insurance, technology, admin) ran as expected
- ✓ Stewardship: \$11,440

### 2021 Budget Priorities

- ✓ \$25,700 Trail Work – Beacon Hill Preserve, Evans Family Meadows, & LaSalette Trail
- ✓ \$8,300 Thrall Barn Cupola
- ✓ \$3,400 General Maintenance
- ✓ \$3,500 Contracted Bookkeeper





- How do we evaluate potential new land?
- Steps in acquisition
- Beacon Hill

# Land Acquisition

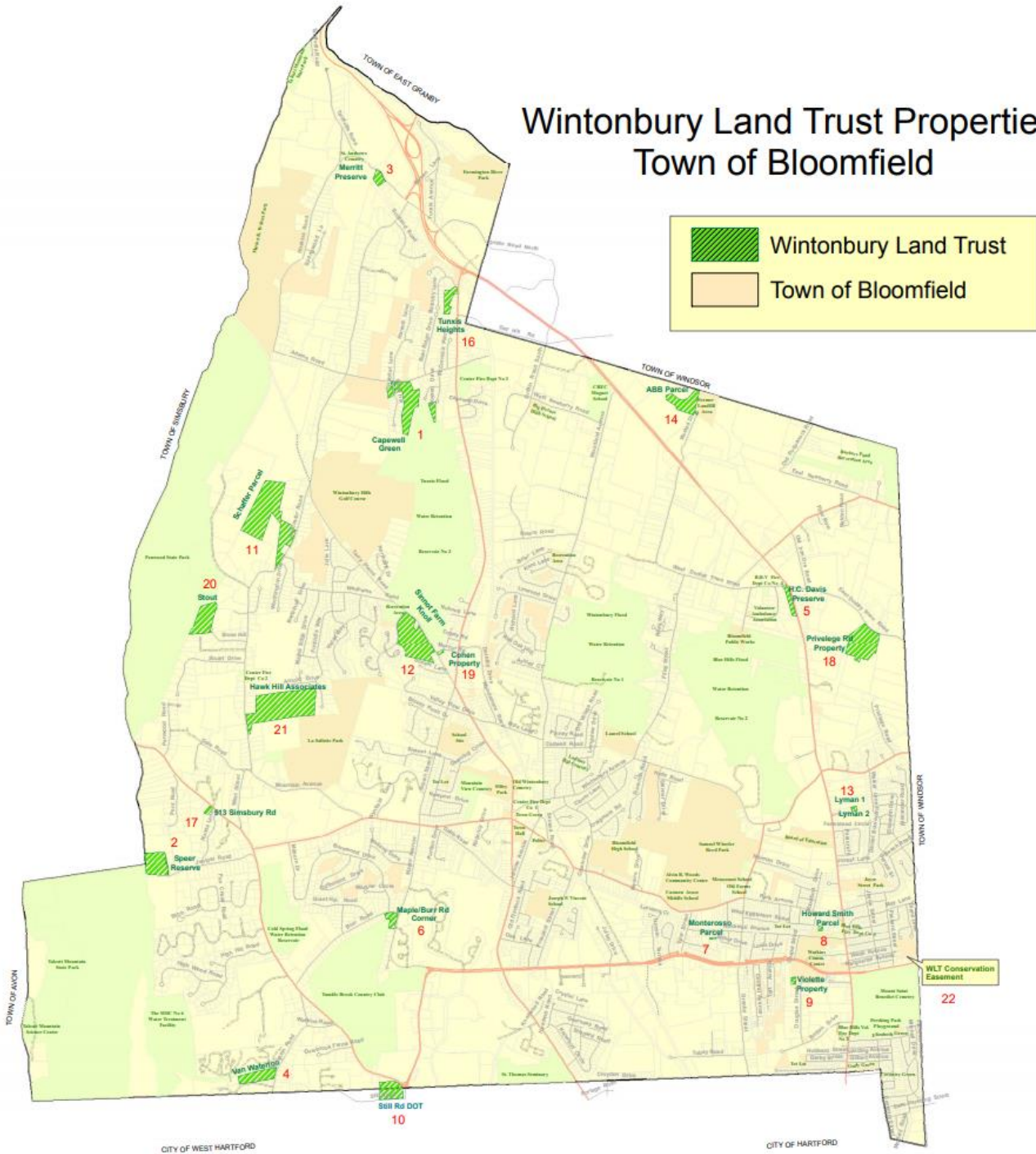
*Dale Bertoldi,  
Chair,  
Acquisition  
Committee*





# Land Acquisition & Stewardship

## Wintonbury Land Trust Properties Town of Bloomfield





## Stewardship

*Vikki Reski,  
Chair,  
Stewardship  
Committee*

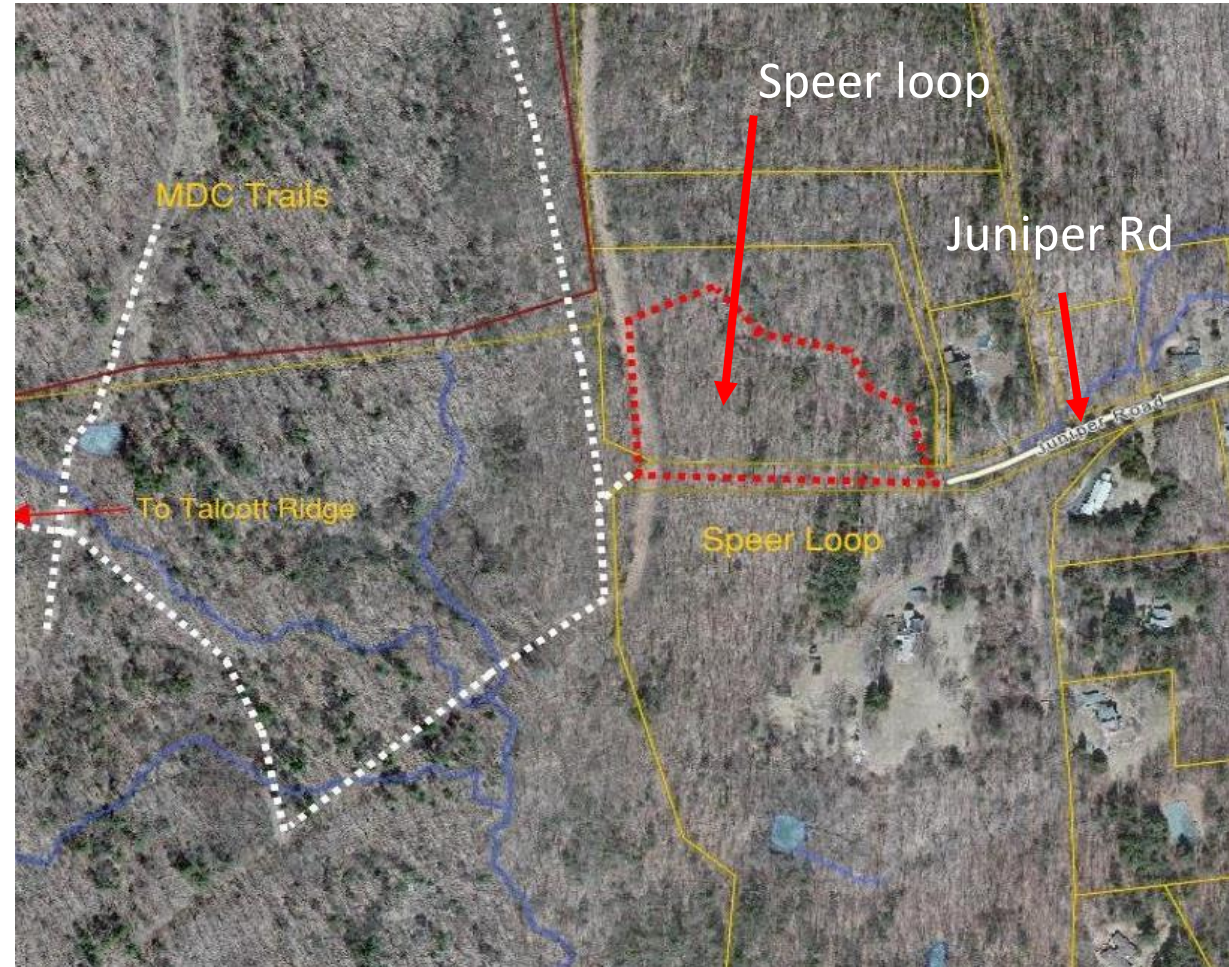
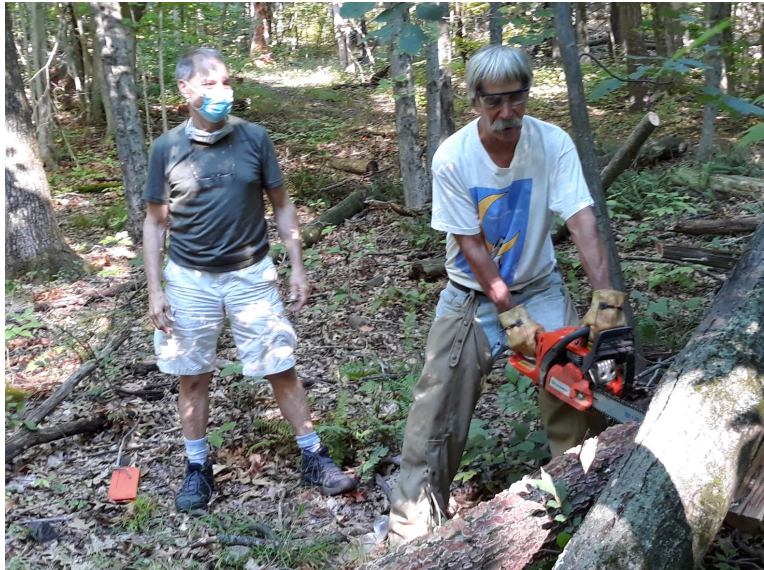
*John  
Cappadona,  
Steward,  
Speer  
Preserve*

## Stewardship

- “The careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care”
- 25 properties totaling approximately 300 acres
- 8 actively managed (trails, farms)

## Speer Preserve

- 13 acres at end of Juniper Rd
- woodlands and walking trails
- adjacent to MDC & Talcott Ridge







### New Trails for 2021

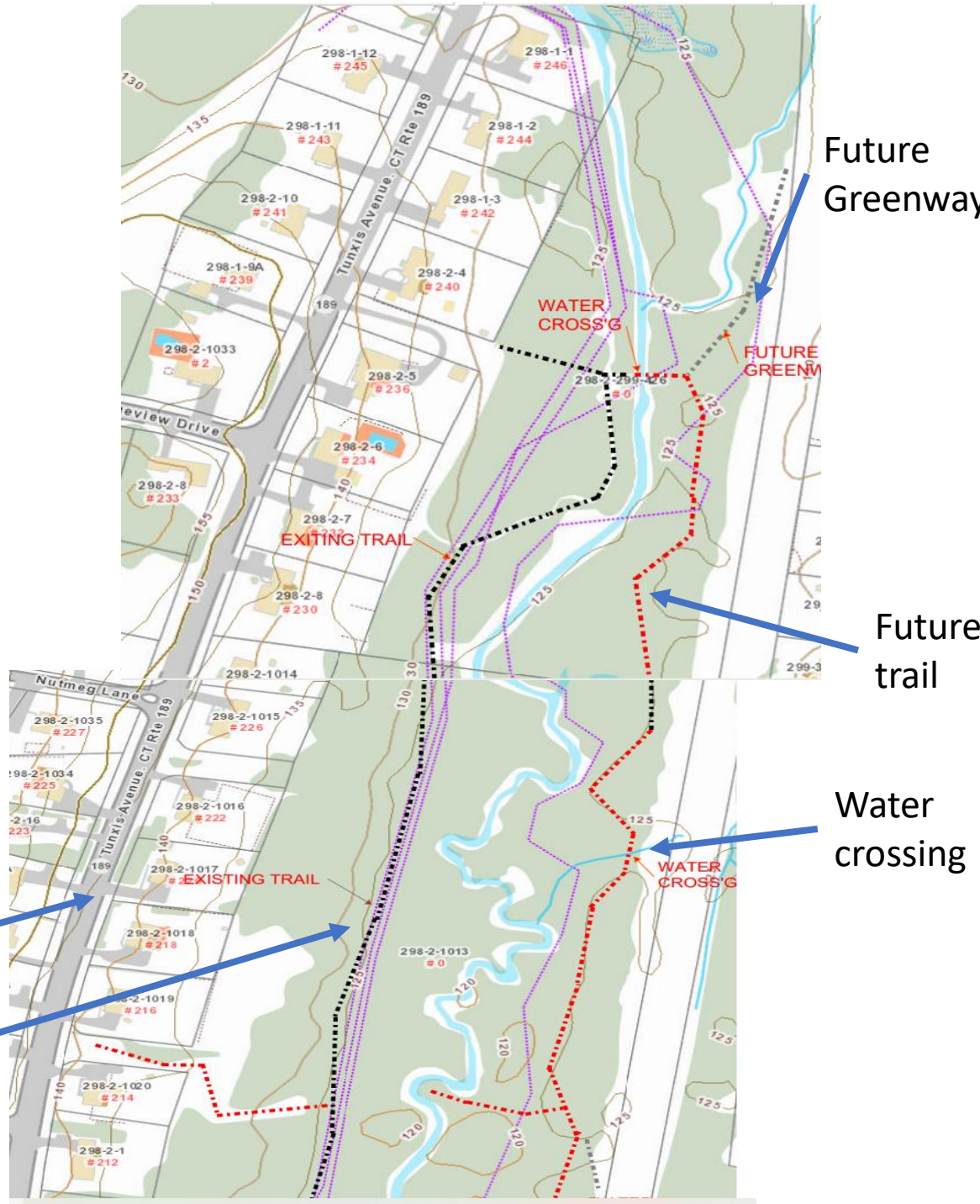
- Evans Family Meadows
- Beacon Hill Preserve

### Additional segment of LaSalette Trail

- Anthony's Way

Connecting People with Nature: Trails

Dale Bertoldi, Chair, Trails Committee





Connecting  
People with  
Nature:  
Events

*Sharon  
Mann,  
Chair,  
Events  
Committee*

### Nature Lecture Series

- Six lectures with >800 attendees
- Partnering with Bloomfield Leisure Services



### Hikes and Guided Walks

- Tariffville-Bloomfield foliage hike at Town Wilcox Park
- Halloween hike at Town LaSalette Open Space
- Speer Preserve snowshoe hike
- Guided Trail Walk at Hawk Hill Farm
- Hosted North Central Conservation District's Plant Sale at Hawk Hill Farm
- Trails Day hikes at Farmington River Park & Seabury Wildwoods



### Take Home Harvest Dinner

- September 18, 2021





Thanks to Charlie Horn, Rich Greenspan, Zellene Sandler, Vikki Reski & Sharon Mann!

Email newsletter: 694 households

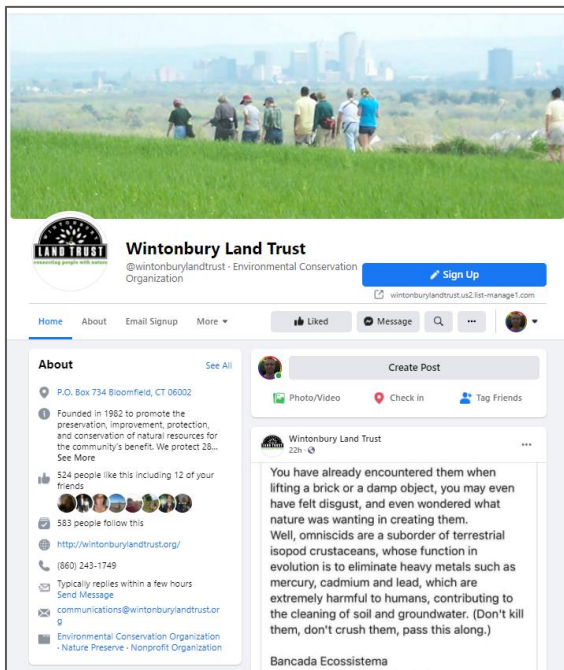
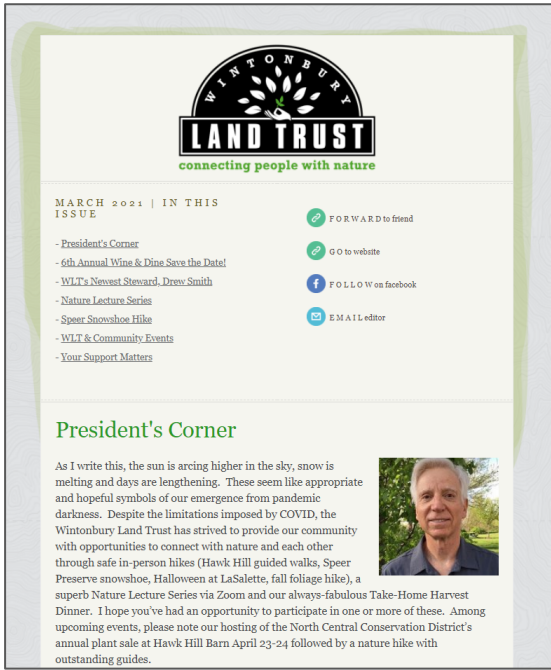
Facebook: nearly 600 followers

YouTube (new): archiving nature lectures

Website: provides more info for events and visitors

Connecting People with Nature: Communications

Christopher Shepard, Chair, Communications Committee





# Membership Summary

*Alexa  
Tzanova,  
Chair,  
Membership  
Committee*

**To date for 2021 we have:**

**60** Lifetime memberships (family & individual)

**61** Annual memberships (family & individual)

- 41 received at the end of 2020
- 20 received in 2021
- Includes 5 first-time memberships (family & individual)

**24** memberships were not renewed for 2021

\*Memberships indicates households, not individual members





Priorities  
for  
2021-2022

*Vic Herson,  
President*

## **Maintain and enhance connectivity with the community**

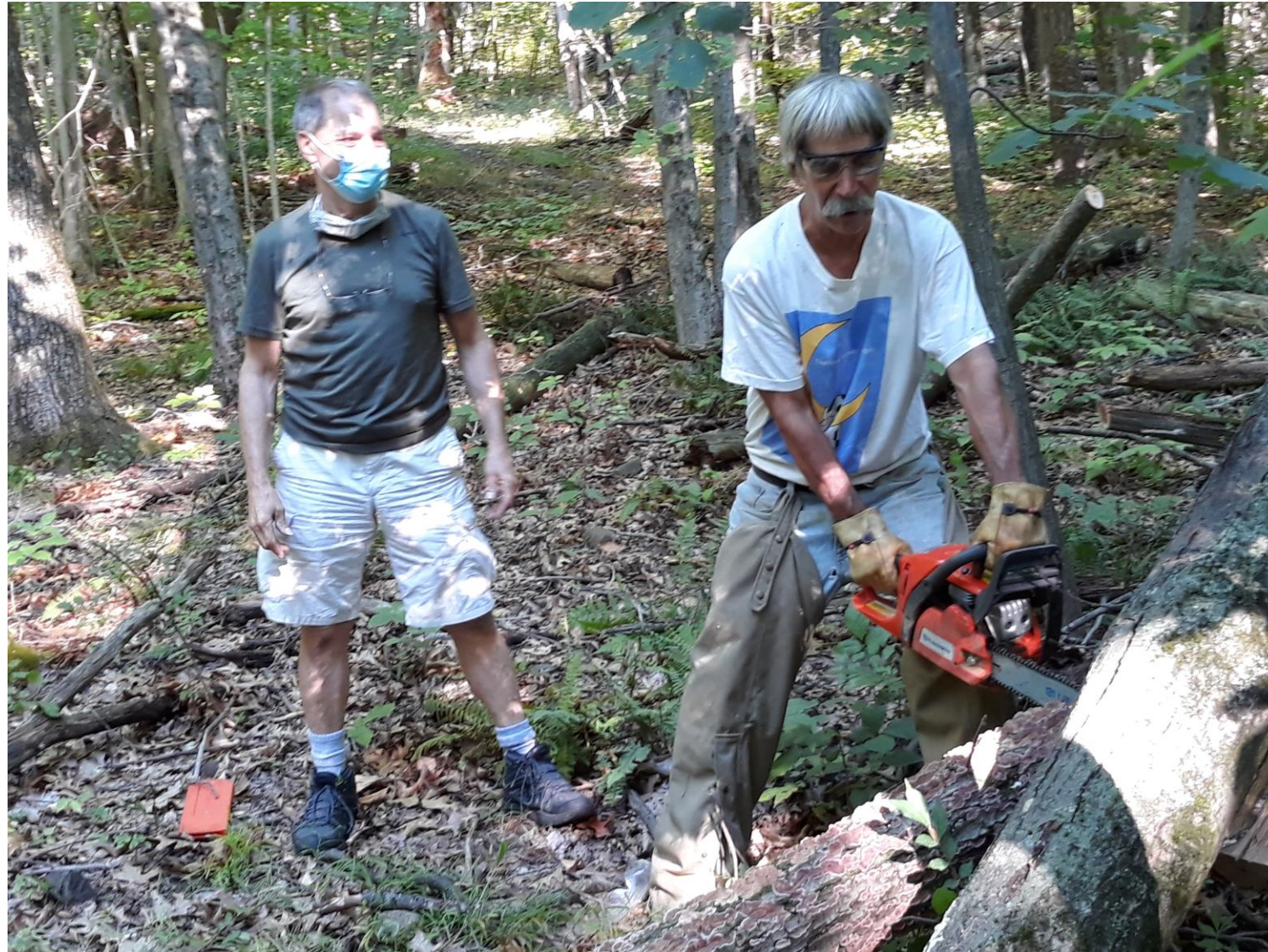
- Creation of new Trails
- Improved trail signage
- Educational and social events

## **Ensure long-term sustainability of Land Trust**

- Expand membership base and membership diversity
- Explore opportunities to expand collaborations with neighboring land trusts

**Thank You to our Members, Volunteers & Donors!**

## Speer Preserve Trail Work Party



## Dedication of Evans Family Meadows



# Snow-shoe Hike @ Speer





## Wine & Dine Volunteers



## Wine & Dine Sumptuous Dinner

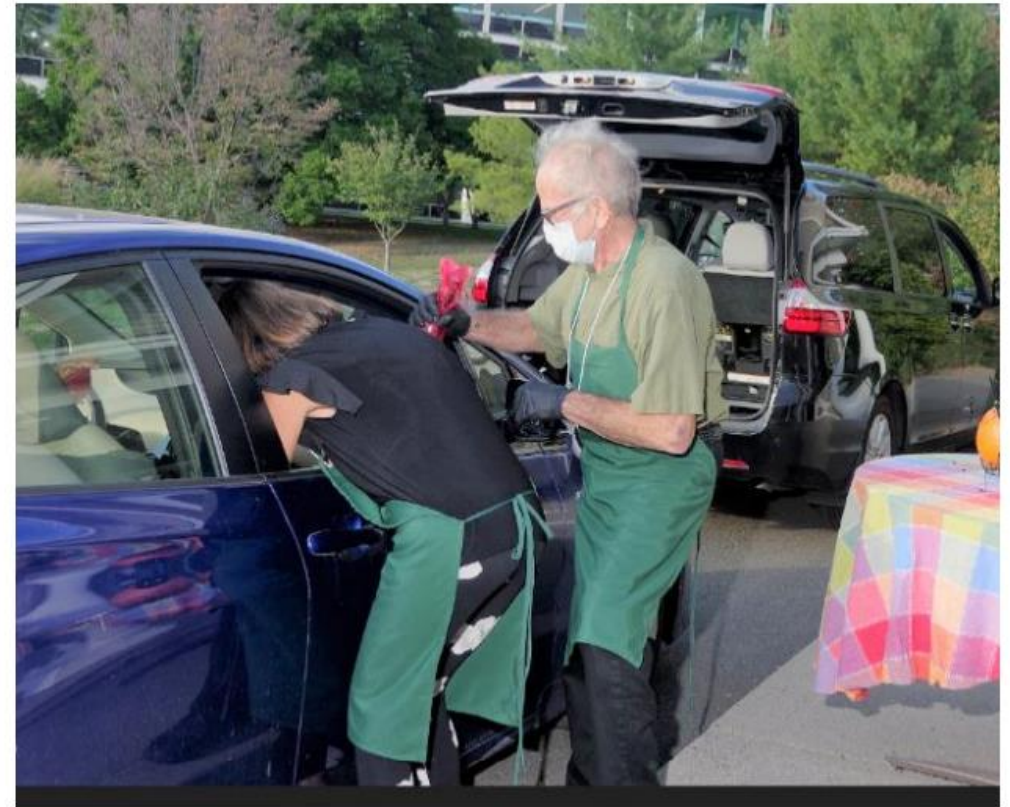




Volunteers delivered to each car: a peach basket filled with their meals, a WLT program, a bottle of Chef Archer's hot sauce, a bouquet of Petersen Farm fall flowers, and a six pak which included prosecco, BackEast Octoberfest beer, Avery's locally-made Seltzer.



Vic Herson, President of WLT assists server.



Deputy Mayor David Mann assists with the pick-up.

# The 4 Five Farm @ Hawk Hill



We are pleased to introduce The 4-Five Farm operated by local residents Daniel Duesing and Kassie Murphy, using Hawk Hill Farm's barn and fields. They employ organic and regenerative practices to raise free-range chickens and turkeys. They also grow peas, peppers, tomatoes, and other vegetables. Produce and poultry are for sale at the farm or can be pre-ordered on [their website](#).

**ORGANIC CHICKEN FOR  
THE HARVEST DINNER  
FROM THE 4 FIVE FARM**



## Fall Foliage Hike @ Wilcox Park



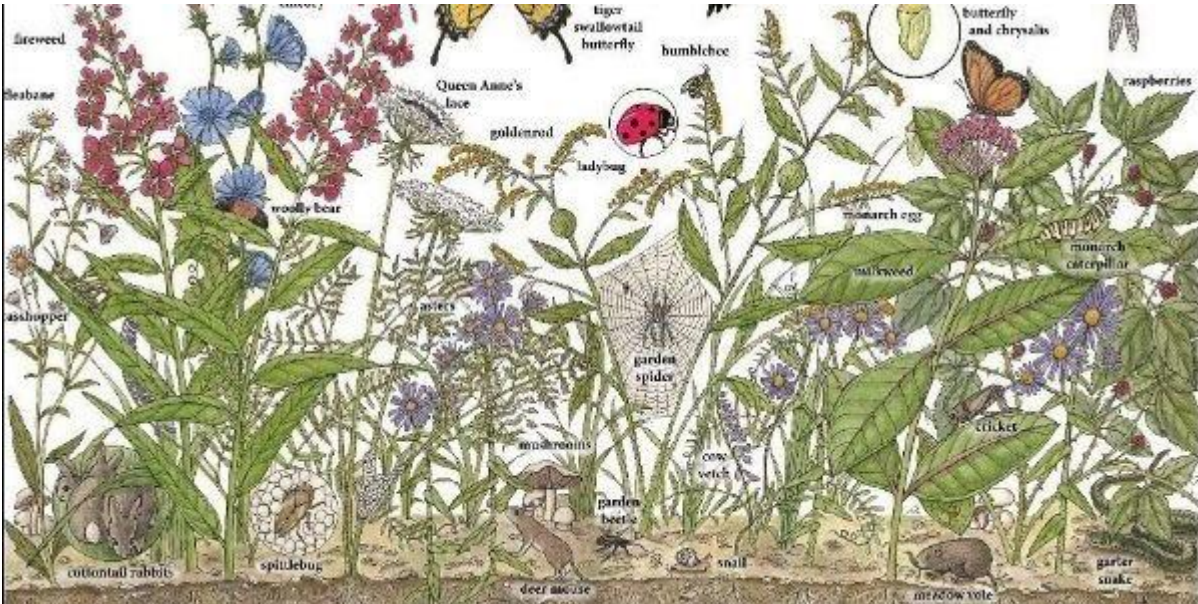
## Halloween Hike @ LaSalette Park



## Halloween Hike @ LaSalette Park



# Nature Lecture Series





## Stewardship work @ Hawk Hill



Green Farms @ Lisa Lane



Thrall Farm (Windsor)



## Trails Day Hike



# Arbor Day Tree Planting at Sinnot Farm-The Knoll

