

# Wintonbury Land Trust Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

## DRAFT

June 15, 2022, Bloomfield Human Services Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vic Herson. Current Members Present: Dale Bertoldi, Sten Caspersson, Ellen Castaldini, Chip Caton, Patty Connolly, Cheryl Fox, Bette-Jane Hardersen, Gail Herson, Vic Herson, Nancy Kline, David Mann, Sharon Mann, Cheryl Murray, Douglas Murray, Sue Petke, Vikki Reski, Eliane Sandler, David Schupp, Christopher Shepard, Andrew Smith, Bob Stanwood, Peggy Stanwood, Jim Trail, Alexa Tzanova, Brain VanDamme, and Lawrence Zemel.

**1. President's Report:** Vic Herson noted the Land Trust is 40 years old and discussed how conserving land with access for passive recreation improves public health outcomes.

**2. Election of Directors:** Secretary & Communications Chair Christopher Shepard acknowledged retiring board members Patty Connolly and Sharon Mann and presented the Nominating Committee's recommendation to re-elect Vic Herson and Sue Petke to the board of directors for three year terms ending in 2025. Doug Murray moved to approve that recommendation. Jim Trail 2nd. Approved unanimously, with Vic and Sue abstaining.

**3. Stewardship Report:** Vic discussed the number and type of land trust properties - preserves, farms, and trails - maintained by volunteer stewards. He also presented a case study of stewardship efforts at Thrall Farm.

#### **4. Reports on Connecting People with Nature:**

- **Hikes:** Vic provided an overview of events and inclusion strategies, e.g. senior hikes with the UCONN Adult Learning Program and a Duncaster Foundation grant focused on community members new to hiking.
- **Nature Lecture Series:** Events Chair Sharon Mann described how the five online events presented with Bloomfield Leisure Services reached new audiences and remain available on the land trust's YouTube channel.
- **Wine & Dine:** Sharon thanked the annual fundraiser's many participants, sponsors, donors, and volunteers She reported it netted over \$20,000 for the land trust and helped plant 230 trees in national forests.  
Patty Connolly announced there will be a Fall Membership Social on Sunday, October 2, instead of another Wine & Dine in 2022.
- **Communications:** Christopher reported on the new Instagram and increase in newsletter and Facebook subscribers. He also described adopting Google Workspace to support communication and improve security.

## 5. Reports on Organizational Capacity:

- **Financial Highlights:** Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair Sue Petke summarized the land trust's primary sources of income (Wine & Dine, contributions, and membership dues) and expenses (operations and stewardship). She outlined the major expenses anticipated in the next year (trail work, Thrall Barn cupola restoration, Hawk Hill Farm shed removal, and grassland habitat maintenance) and noted much will be supported by funds raised in previous years.
- **Membership:** Membership Chair Alexa Tzanova reported the land trust has 141 member households and discussed strategies to increase the retention of annual members.
- **Future Priorities:** Vic emphasized expanding the number and diversity of members, new trails including a tree walk at Hawk Hill, capital investments in preserving farms, and exploring collaborations with other land trusts.

## 6. Member Questions: BJ Hardersen asked for more details about the role of volunteer stewards.

Sharon Mann moved to adjourn. Bob Stanwood 2nd. Approved unanimously at 8:00 pm. Next board of directors meeting: Wednesday, July 13, 5:30-7:00 pm, Bloomfield Human Services Center.

Draft meeting minutes submitted by Secretary Christopher Shepard on June 24, 2022.