



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF MARCH 26, 2015

Board Members Present: Bryden, Crooker, Hilzinger, Kasinskas, Marinaro, Mercugliano, Schrumm, Slocum, VanderLek, Waldo & Wetmore

Members & Guests – 40

President Bryden called the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Cheshire Land Trust to order at 7:00 in Council Chambers at the Cheshire Town Hall. Her opening comments made note of the very successful year citing two acquisitions, Kolstad Woods & Josephine’s Woods. CLT also conducted 2 community hikes, a stewardship workshop, bagel fundraiser at Bagelicious and the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual “Day at the Farm” in September.

MINUTES from annual membership meeting of March 27, 2014 were presented for acceptance.

Motion by Waldo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wetmore, motion passed.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Dave Schrumm submitted the Financial Report for the year ending 12/31/14 as presented in the newsletter of March, 2015.

Total Income: \$52,752; Total Expenses: \$63,691. Net income (10,939)

Assets: Investments & Bank Accounts: \$609,250. Total Equity \$9,062,399.

Comments: CLT assets have grown and acreage has too thanks to the latest acquisitions. A full audit was completed by Budwitz and Meyerjack, the CLT is in full compliance with all requirements for a 501(c)3.

NOMINATIONS & ELECTION OF 2015 OFFICERS AND GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mr. Waldo recognized outgoing governing board members, Nell DeVane and Art Crooker. Nell served for 13 years on the board and was a past president. Art Crooker was on the board since 2011 serving on the stewardship committee and providing lots of help at Ives Farm.

The proposed slate of officers presented by the Nominating Chair Sam Waldo for approval.

President	<b>Mark Kasinskas</b>		
Vice President	<b>Sam Waldo</b>	<b>Matt Abdifar</b>	2015 - 2018
Treasurer	<b>David Schrumm</b>	<b>Elizabeth Johnson</b>	2015 - 2018
Secretary	<b>Tim Slocum</b>	<b>Joy VanderLek</b>	2015 - 2018

Motion to approve slate by Dave Mercugliano, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Marinaro, Motion passed.

**President Kasinskas** was introduced to the audience by outgoing president, Janice Bryden. He expressed thanks for the appointment and his excitement about the challenges ahead. He spoke about his connections to the board going back to his youth when his father had served on the CLT board of directors.

**Youth Services Award:** Rick Marinaro introduced CHS students. They received citations for their valuable service work for CLT.

Alex Housemann - trail work at Brooke Preserve. Eagle Scout Charles Biddescombe - Signage and trail work at Old Farms preserve. Key Club members - Alyssa Matx, Jack Keenan, Claudia Buszta, Jenni Kwiatkowski - Stewardship Day cleanup work.

**Certificates of Appreciation:** Nell DeVane and Art Crooker were recognized for their many years of service on the governing board.

**Thanks to Outgoing president Bryden:** Tim Slocum spoke on behalf of the board expressing its sincere thanks to Janice Bryden for her leadership over the past three years. Over that period of time there were three acquisitions (48 acres) including an easement on Leavenworth Farm and the completion of a new barn at Ives Farm as well as a number of successful outreach community events including the very popular community event, A Day at the Farm.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 7:27 by President Kasinskas

### **PROGRAM**

Janice Bryden introduced **Jeanné Chesanow**, Cheshire Town Historian and Historic District Commission Vice Chairman. Chesanow presented a program entitled, Glaciers to Greenhouses. With slides and handouts she showed the changes in land use and landscapes over the centuries in Cheshire and Connecticut. She began with the ice to its first people. An early map of Cheshire, dated 1723 was a backdrop for the discussion about early Cheshire and Fresh Meadows when farming led to less forest up to now where forests cover almost 85% of the state. She spoke about the early farming history and the transition to today and its impacts on what we see and do today. The audience was left to ponder where will farming be in the future, how many more surfaces will be paved and how green will we remain into the future.