

**Harwinton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.  
Annual Meeting  
Harwinton Public Library, Harwinton, CT  
April 17, 2014**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President, Tom Schoenemann at 7:05 p.m. Tom declared that a quorum was present. Copies of the meeting's agenda and the minutes from the April 25, 2013 Annual Meeting were available to those present.

**Attendees**

**Officers**

Tom Schoenemann	President
Bob Orciari	Vice President
Herb Etter	Treasurer
Karen Burnett	Secretary

**Board of Directors**

Liz Brayboy	Tamara Christensen	Larry Connors
Steve Courtwright	Rob Lesniewski	Bill Tracy

**General Membership**

Dave Christensen	Lora Lewis	Mary Magnoli
Zack Magnoli	Donna Potwin	Susan Rood
Joan Schoenemann	Elaine Sederquist	

**Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed and accepted. It passed unanimously.

**Introductions**

Introductions were made.

**Secretary's Report**

Minutes from the Annual Meeting on April 25, 2013 were available for anyone who wanted a copy. Minutes were distributed earlier by email to officers and directors. No corrections were offered. Larry Connors moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Steve Courtwright seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Herb Etter presented the treasurer's report noting that the figures were current. He noted that we have \$19,571.52 in our checking account. He talked about the member statistics noting that there are some grey areas in determining membership. Notably, if an employer matches an employee's contribution there is a question about the employer's status. Another grey area occurs when a member specifies a contribution for land with the membership dollars. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

**Chairman's Report**

Larry Connors reported that there has been no activity regarding the dam at Bull Pond. There are multiple owners of the dam which makes it difficult for the state to enforce action. During

the year the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) initiated a new program under which they send a letter to the dam owner who is expected to hire an engineer to evaluate the dam. The owner is to take action as needed. We did not get such a letter this year.

Members of the Harwinton Land Trust (HLT) have spent considerable time marking property boundaries and trails. We have a new educational tree identification trail. A selection of trees has been labeled with the type of tree and information about that type of tree.

We are working to develop a relationship with the Eco-Action Club at Lewis Mills High School. We sent three speakers to one of their meetings and had a great meeting.

Larry thanked the Harwinton Library for giving us space for a display. He also thanked Bob and Tamara for their work creating and setting up the display. It is a nice display and is good public relations for us.

There are currently three Boy Scouts who would like to help us as part of their Eagle Scout projects.

We are still looking for new people for our directors and officers, especially younger people.

Larry also thanked Franci Tartaglino from the Healing Trail for her newsletter. She has been especially good to us with announcements and promotion of our trails. Larry recommended that residents should sign up to get her newsletter because she has such good coverage of local news and events.

### **Membership**

Bob Orciari said that in 2013 we had 160 individual contributors who gave \$8,680. Since 2006 we averaged about 150 – 170 people. He offered a special thanks to Herb for an excellent membership list which is quite detailed and complete. This year, as of March 14, we had 154 donations. As of March 14, 2012 there were only 79 donations so this year is an improvement. Tom added that we had better publicity this year.

### **Status of Website**

Tamara Christensen gave a demonstration of the HLT web page. Tom Schoenemann complimented it as the best web page in the area. Tamara said that Google has blocked some of the stats so she has less information about web page use. Bob Orciari writes lots of articles for the page. We have information about Forever Forest and the Tree Identification trail. There are trail maps and a link for the geocache on the property. There are HLT directors and officers email contacts which are forwarded to the individuals' personal email addresses. Each property has a page. We post events, work parties and notices such as "volunteers needed". There are also outside links to other organizations related to HLT. Contributions are welcome. The best practice is to write the text in a MS Word document and send pictures individually. These can be emailed to Tamara.

We also have a Facebook page. Cheryl Ganoë posts to this frequently. Franci Tartaglino from Healing Trail follows our page and reposts on her page which gives us more exposure. We have 88 followers.

## Overview of Properties and Stewardship

### Forever Forest

A handout about this property was distributed and is attached to these minutes. Liz Brayboy said that there is lots of traffic at the property, especially since we completed the new trails and markers. Maps are stocked in a new box with a map board near the trail head. The new trails make the pond more accessible and more of the land is covered by trails. Bob said that someone from DEEP identified the trees and Larry did the woodworking for the signs. The Tree Identification signs were posted and boundary markings were improved.

Bob said that DEEP sent a representative to look at the feasibility of doing phragmites control. The marsh is overcrowded with this invasive plant which chokes out the native cattails and other plants. One control method is to bring in a low impact machine which is used in the marsh. Glyphosate is sprayed which has the same active ingredient as Roundup but it can be used in wetlands (unlike Roundup). They estimate it would cost about \$2,500 each year to spray and spraying needs to be done for three years. Most of the phragmites is gone in the first year. There was discussion of advantages and disadvantages of doing this. We could garner good public relations by trying to get rid of an invasive plant but that could be offset by poor public relations from the use of chemicals. Aesthetically the marsh would be a nice return to native plants as the cattails return. Alternatively, we might find the machine is not as low impact as we want and the cost is steep for our budget.

Liz said that there is the potential for an Eagle Scout project to build an observation platform at the marsh. In the last year we did trail clean up, put in a new footbridge and a geocache. Buffer plantings are in the works to provide more privacy for the neighbors from our visitors on the trails.

### Bull Pond

Larry said that the Bull pond area has about 20 acres of pond and another 50 acres of land which is beautiful for trails. Bob is laying out trails in the area north of the pond which has plenty of dry area once you make a brook crossing. That is a potential Eagle Scout project. There is a later, smaller brook crossing needed to access the dry area. Bob showed slides and talked about the blow down which knocked down trees which we had removed. He laid out a red trail which is a loop trail on a high knoll with nice old straight trees. There is another knoll trail marked with yellow and he is beginning a white trail showcasing a waterfall. He also showed a slide of the brook which is a pretty one, about five feet wide. These trails are roughed out and marked with tape. Larry said that more boundary marking has been done.

### Laurel Marsh

Tamara stated that the boundary markers have been improved but they are not completed. They may never be completed in the part that is difficult to access and they may not be necessary in that area. The observation deck is in good condition and Bob has some ideas for trails.

### Indian Meadow

According to Bill Tracy, boundary marking of this property is less important due to its lower accessibility. While a lot is classified as wetland there is a lot of open and not very wet land here. The west side is pretty well marked along the brook. The east side is pinned due to the house lots on White Oak Drive but many of the pins are very hard to find. There are signs but

their placement is not always accurate. There are few visitors due to poor parking along Route 4 and poor access along White Oak.

#### Meadowview

Rob Lesniewski said Cheryl and her family built an excellent footbridge for access to the property. Right now most of the access area is flooded. The current trail encroaches on a neighbor's property due to the wet conditions on our property. Rob would like to see the construction of another footbridge or perhaps a boardwalk which would allow us to move the trail off the neighbor's land. Other trails are in good condition. There are no beavers at the moment.

#### High Meadow

According to Herb this property is very wet right now. There is beaver activity and there is plenty of other wildlife. The biggest issue remains boundary determination and marking.

#### Prudden Easement

Tom reported that they found the property well maintained by the current owner. Howard, Bob and Tom walked the property last year and found the owner complying with the bobolink nesting clause of the easement. He was also very cooperative with the Land Trust. There is some question as to whether bobolinks are still on the property as none have been seen in a while.

#### Tree Planting Project

This includes two separate projects: the Bull Pond area of blow down and the Forever Forest buffer along the south edge.

Bob described the Forever Forest project as planting 60 – 70 hemlocks to provide a screen between the neighbor and our trails. These would be 1.5 to 2 feet tall at planting and would be located below the yellow trail

At Bull Pond the plant list includes 30 – 40 hemlocks, 10 red oak, 18 potted high bush blueberry, 20 potted mountain laurel and two 5 – 7 feet tall flowering cherry. The Community Foundation of NW Connecticut donated the full amount. The cherry trees will be planted at each corner of the platform. The other trees will be randomly planted about 30 – 40 feet from shore to create a natural effect. At the shoreline the white pines are rotting and the shrubs will be planted to stabilize the shore and to discourage foot travel along the shore. The expected cost is \$800 for the plants and another \$150 for fertilizer, Roundup and flagging tape. The new plants should be marked with tape to prevent future workers from accidentally disturbing them. Roundup will be used to knock down existing plants, giving the new ones a better chance to get established.

We will have a work party on April 26, 2014. Please bring shovels, loppers, rakes, saws, etc. We will still add some rock at the shoreline. Bob will bring a load of top soil. Tamara will post this on the web page and Bob will notify the Eco-Action Club. There will also be a work party at Forever Forest at 9:00 on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Old Business

There was none.

#### New Business

Harwinton's Super Saturday will be coming in May. There was discussion as to whether it is worth our time to participate. Last year the people manning our table reported that we had very

little traffic and those who did come were mostly HLT members and friends. Our location was not conducive to good traffic. The discussion included the questions of whether it is necessary to man the table all day and whether our materials could be placed at the Eco-Action Club table (if they have a table). Liz Brayboy moved that we not participate this year. The motion was seconded by Bill Tracy and passed unanimously.

#### **Nominations for and Election of Board of Directors**

We are a 501(c)3 non profit. Members elect a board of directors and the board then elects officers. Last year we started the year with eight directors. We can have up to nine. Larry prepared a list of eight nominees this year to encourage nominations from the floor. Larry Connors nominated the following people to serve one year terms as Directors of Harwinton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.: Elizabeth Brayboy, Lawrence Connors, Stephen Courtright, Cheryl Ganoë, Robert Lesniewski, Howard Rood, Tom Schoenemann and William Tracy. There were no nominations from the floor. Larry moved to accept the slate as presented. Liz Brayboy seconded the motion. Tom will move from president to a director and Tamara will move from director to officer. The slate passed unanimously.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Burnett, Secretary



# HARWINTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, Inc.

## THOMASTON SAVING BANK

PROCEDURE:  UPDATED BALANCE  $I(n) = I(n-1) + C(n) - E(n)$

### ACCOUNT LEDGER

2014

Acct: 514001692

### MONEY MARKET CHECKING

DATE	DEPOSIT	DISBURSEMENT	CHECK No.	BALANCE	EXPLANATION
1/7/2014	\$660.00			\$16,800.79	Balance 12-31-13
1/28/2014				\$17,460.79	
1/31/2014	\$2.21	\$50.00	253	\$17,463.00	Sec'y. State Jan. interest
2/14/2014	\$25.00			\$17,488.00	
2/15/2014		\$250.00	254	\$17,238.00	Dues-Land Trust Allianc
2/19/2014		\$518.43	255	\$16,719.57	Annual mailing fee
2/20/2014		\$381.48	256	\$16,338.09	Musser-trees Forever Fo
2/27/2014	\$670.00			\$17,008.09	
2/27/14-2	\$860.00			\$17,868.09	
2/28/2014	\$2.01			\$17,870.10	Feb. interest
3/3/2014	\$380.00			\$18,250.10	Dues
3/3/2014	\$240.00			\$18,490.10	Dues
3/10/2014		\$1,501.00	257	\$16,989.10	Rainbox Press-mailing
3/11/2014	\$460.00			\$17,449.10	Dues
3/14/2014	\$555.00			\$18,004.10	Dues
3/14/2014	\$385.00			\$18,389.10	Dues
3/17/2014	\$595.00			\$18,984.10	Dues
3/24/2014	\$670.00			\$19,654.10	Dues, Land, Memorial
3/29/2014	\$260.00			\$19,914.10	
3/31/2014	\$2.42			\$19,916.52	March Interest
4/3/2014		\$410.00	259	\$19,506.52	
4/15/2014	\$65.00			\$19,571.52	NCD-trees Bull Pond

Total deposits as of 4/15/14	\$5,875.00	MEMBER TYPES				Total Members 122
Amount designated for "Laird"	\$425.00	S	F	P	C	
Memorial donations	\$600.00	10	57	26	23	
Net "Dues"	\$4,850.00	as of 4/15/14				

	CDs as of	3/31/2014	
#00066	\$22,463.19	0.35% renewed	3/24/14 2% 5 years
#00373	\$8,147.36	0.40% renewed	11/7/13 0.4% 16 mos.
Prudden			
#00165	\$6,221.98	0.35% renewed	3/24/14 2% 5 years
#00385	\$2,379.97	0.76% renewed	2/4/14 1% 16 mos.

# Forever Forest

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- Added new trail to open an additional interesting area, and to allow visitors to return on a different (main) trail. Extended main trail to the far end of the property.
- Marked all trails with plastic blazers (main trail-white, shorter return trail-yellow, short walks-red). Identified trail intersections with wooden posts and blazers.
- Completed color foldout maps of the trail system.
- Installed a map sign post with Plexiglas cover and case for foldout maps at the head of trail.
- Met with a DEEP forester and installed 33 tree ID posts next to demonstration trees to increase interest and educational value of property.
- Completed posting of all Land Trust boundaries, by finishing posting boundary sign posts along the NE section of the property that is contiguous with the Chambers' property.
- Met with DEEP to discuss possibility of eradicating phragmites, an invasive plant that has overtaken the large marsh.
- Met with an Eagle Scout candidate to install a wildlife observation platform at the large marsh.
- Performed maintenance brush cuttings along the trails and vista clearings. Cut down several dead trees that threatened to fall on trails.
- Installed a footbridge crossing of Kelly Pond Brook.
- Completed plans for a buffer planting of hemlock seedlings along the entry trail and downhill from the yellow trail.
- Placed a geocache, which should attract additional visitors.

