

Harwinton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.
Annual Meeting
Harwinton Public Library
April 21, 2022

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman of the Board Steve Craig at 7:04 PM.

Attendees

Officers

Karen Kelleher	President
Scott Ragaglia	Treasurer
Karen Burnett	Secretary

Board of Directors

Martin Brayboy	Larry Connors	Steve Craig
Celeste Echelin	Eric Rahn	Howard Rood

General Membership & Guests

12 people

Introductions

Officers and members of the board were introduced.

Review of 2021 membership and financials

Treasurer Scott Ragaglia said that people were kind to us in the past year. There were 193 donors who gave us \$14,200. Of this \$11,965 was for dues, \$760 was for land acquisition and \$1,375 was for memorial contributions. We received a \$3,000 grant from Thomaston Savings Bank which was targeted for trail improvements to keep our properties vibrant. We also received \$250 from Extreme Terrain. Some people choose to donate through Amazon Smile and we received \$27.84 from that.

Our largest expenses were about \$2,000 for insurance, about \$1,900 for our membership mailing and about \$1,300 for plants and property repair materials. Total expenses were \$5,707. That left us at the end of the year with a total of \$94,558 in our bank accounts. Scott thanked everyone who has donated and supported us saying we are fortunate to have such kind people. Eric Rahn added that in most years we also have an Eagle Scout project to improve one of our properties.

Review of accomplishments in 2021 and plans for 2022

Karen Kelleher listed many projects from last year. At Laurel Marsh the entrance was improved with stairs. At Forever Forest a new bridge and most of a second were built to give access to the new section in the back of the property. At Bull Pond Luke Bushka, an Eagle Scout candidate, built a new information kiosk. Our High Meadow property was renamed Etter Marsh to honor our long time, dedicated member Herb Etter who passed away during the year. There was a small ceremony and new signage was installed. There were work parties at both Indian Meadow and Meadowview to clear

invasives and do general trail maintenance as needed. Indian Meadow also has a pollinator garden being developed in coordination with the Harwinton Garden Club.

Vote on changes to Certificate of Incorporation

Proposed changes were available and were sent out to members before the meeting. Steve explained that we have many donors who do not live in Harwinton. They are unable to vote unless we change the Certificate of Incorporation to allow non-resident voting. The following changes will make it possible for them to vote in Harwinton Land Trust matters.

“The following are the changes proposed:

Article VII Section C Regular Members

Eliminate “who are electors of the Town of Harwinton and” and add the words “or the prior year’s dues” such that it will now read, in its entirety: “C. Regular Members shall consist of those persons 18 years of age or over who have paid the then current annual regular membership dues as established from time to time by the Board of Directors, or the prior year’s dues. Regular Members may attend all meetings of the members of the Corporation during each fiscal year for which they have paid such dues, and shall have the right to vote thereat on all matters submitted to a vote of the members.”

Article VII Section D Associate Members

Eliminate the complete section, the purpose of which was to provide a form of membership for those not Harwinton residents. By virtue of the change in Section C. above, Section D is eliminated as superfluous.

Article VII Section F

Eliminate the words “Associate Members” as it will become meaningless.

A complete restatement of Article VII as approved and recommended by the Board of Governors follows:

ARTICLE VII

The classes, rights, privileges, qualifications, obligations and the manner of election or appointment of members are as follows:

A. Charter Members shall consist of those persons who have paid dues of \$25.00 prior to January 31, 1974. Charter Members shall be exempt from any further assessment of dues. Charter Members may attend all meetings of the members of the Corporation, but shall have no voting rights. Charter Members may also qualify as members of another class, by fulfilling the qualifications and paying the dues of such other class.

B. Honorary Members shall consist of those persons elected as such by the Board Of Directors. Honorary Members shall be exempt from any assessment of dues, and shall have all the rights and privileges of Regular Members.

C. Regular Members shall consist of those persons 18 years of age or over who have paid the then current annual regular membership dues as established from time to time by the Board of Directors, or the prior year’s dues. Regular Members may attend all meetings of the members of the Corporation during each fiscal year for which they have paid such dues, and shall have the right to vote thereat on all matters submitted to a vote of the members.”

D. Junior Members shall consist of those persons under 18 years of age who have paid the then current annual junior membership dues as established from time to time by the Board of Directors. Junior Members may attend all meetings of the members of the Corporation during each fiscal year for which they have paid dues, or the prior year's dues, but shall have no voting rights.

E. The membership of a member of any class shall terminate upon his death or resignation. In addition, the membership of a Regular Member or Junior Member shall terminate at the end of the fiscal year for which he has paid the prescribed dues, but shall be reinstated automatically upon payment of the dues for the current year.”

Steve called for a vote. Everyone present voted for the change. The motion carried.

Nominations to the board of directors 2022 – 2023

All prior directors agreed to serve except Dan Lyga who wanted to remain as property steward but not as a director. Larry Connors wanted to retire as a director but agreed to serve another term in order to have a full slate. Nomination of Mary Magnoli came from the floor.

The proposed slate is:

Martin Brayboy	Larry Connors	Steve Craig
Celeste Echelin	Franci Knight	Mary Magnoli
Eric Rahn	Howard Rood	

This slate was approved unanimously.

Questions from membership

There were no questions.

Program: Connecting to Nature through Wildlife Tracking

The presenter was Andy Dobos who runs Forest Wolf Programs. He does presentations on many aspects of nature. This one was a combination of data and stories about his experiences tracking and watching wildlife. It was an informative and entertaining evening.

Door prizes

Larry is a woodworker and he created several items out of wood from a dead cherry tree that was taken down along one of our trails. The tree was cut to make the trail safer. He made a lovely small side table, a bud vase and a cooking spatula. These items were raffled off to people present.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Burnett, Secretary