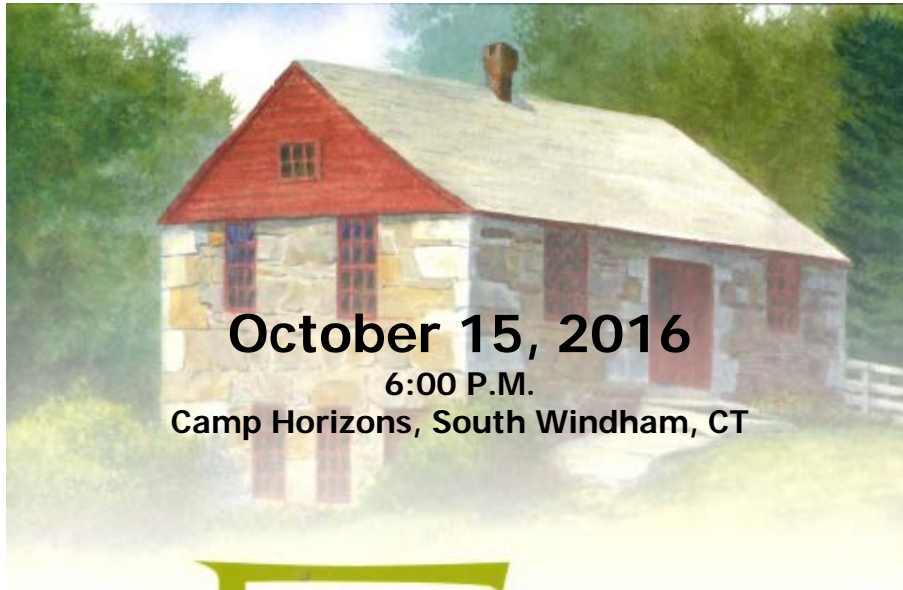


Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust, Inc.
624 Wormwood Hill Road (P.O. Box 4), Mansfield Center, CT 06250-0004

***FIFTIETH ANNUAL MEETING
& 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT***



October 15, 2016
6:00 P.M.
Camp Horizons, South Windham, CT

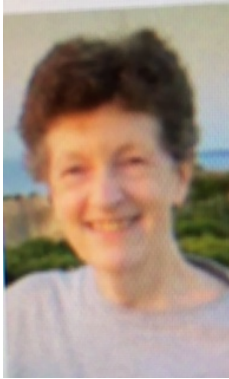
50
YEARS OF
TRUST 1966
2016

The Story of Joshua's Tract
Conservation and Historic Trust

BY RUDY J. FAVRETTI

The 2016 Annual Report marking the 50th Annual Meeting is dedicated to longtime members Dr. Catherine Lynch and Richard Hyde, both of whom passed away this past year.

DR CATHERINE LYNCH



Longtime Trust member Catherine “Katie” Lynch passed away this past December after an unexpected and short battle with cancer. Dr. Lynch moved to the area in 1995 to assume a teaching post at Eastern Connecticut State University in her field of East Asian Studies and purchased a house in Chaplin Village, across from the Trust’s Hubbard Sanctuary. Katie was long interested in preserving open space and fond of rural areas, having spent part of her summers at the family cabin in the hills of central New Hampshire. She was already a member of a New Hampshire Land trust and the Nature Conservancy when she moved to Chaplin, thus her interest in Joshua’s Trust was a natural next step. Katie served as a co-steward of both the Hubbard Sanctuary and the adjacent Agnes’ Pasture, but her greatest contribution was as a member of the Boundary Committee, which was tasked with locating the boundaries of 60 plus Trust properties, mostly unsurveyed. Her great curiosity plus her background in historical research served the Trust well, as Katie became quite proficient in solving the puzzles of boundary location. Her contribution to the community also included serving on two Chaplin Town boards, on the board of the Coventry Lake Community Rowing Club, and as a Justice of the Peace.

Katie made a final gift to the Trust, leaving the proceeds from the sale of her house and her automobile to the Trust, to be used as the Trust sees fit. Her friends and co-workers at the Trust will miss her warmth, intellectual curiosity, and good humor.

RICHARD C. HYDE



Richard Hyde of Ashford, long time member and volunteer for the Trust died peacefully at home on June 14, 2016 after a long battle with cancer. Richard was a two time Trustee and served over ten years as the Vice President for Acquisition. During his tenure, the Trust was able to preserve over 2000 acres of valuable conservation land. Richard was the Steward of the Friedman Forest and also worked as an easement monitor. He was a skilled naturalist who had a passion for preserving valuable open space in the Quiet Corner. He received the Trust’s Conservation award in 2014.

Richard worked for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, as the Director of Natural Resources and State Geologist. He was a member and past chairman of Ashford’s Planning and Zoning Commission. He had multiple hobbies including photography, bee keeping, birding and hunting. He leaves behind his wife, Gail Chernosky, and daughter Jessie.

We will truly miss Richard’s passion and dedication to the mission of the Trust.





Joshua's Mark

FIFTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

October 15, 2016

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JOSHUA'S MARK ®

AGENDA

FIFTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday, October 15, 2015; 6:00 pm
Camp Horizons, South Windham, CT**

1. President's Opening Remarks (Doug Hughes)
 2. Presidential Citations (Doug Hughes)
 3. Volunteer Award (Michael Hveem)
 4. Approval of the Forty Ninth Annual Meeting Minutes October 15, 2015 (Members)
 5. Treasurer's Report (Allison Burchell-Robinson)
 6. Nominating Committee Report (Karen Zimmer)
 7. Election of New Trustees (Members)
 8. Conservation Awards (Nancy Silander & Rudy Favretti)
 9. Stewardship Award (Ann Dunnack)
 9. Adjournment (Doug Hughes)
-

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Doug Hughes

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Dear Members –

What an honor and privilege it is for all of us to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of our beloved Joshua's Trust. A dream of protecting land, shared by a handful of visionaries in 1966, has become an immensely successful institution, the largest land trust in Northeastern Connecticut, admired by our peers and the source of immense enjoyment for hikers and nature lovers from all over New England. We can all be extremely proud of the amazing organization we have become.

After all that's been invested in this half-century of building the Trust, by you and so very many more who have gone before, it would not be true to our Yankee roots to bask for long in the glow of a job well done. There is much that needs to be addressed, and the Board of Trustees has done a tremendous amount of work in the past year to ensure that the JT of the future will be even stronger.

Our ability to plan for the future has been made possible in particular by the Land Trust Alliance, which recognized JT last year with its Excellence Award. Among other benefits, this award covers most of the cost of outside consulting, and we have benefited tremendously from the very thoughtful land trust experts at the Wisconsin-based Conservation Consulting Group.

In the past year, CCG focused on leading us to modernize our governance structure. The history of Joshua's Trust is distinguished by strong leaders of clear vision and immense energy (and those who didn't live through it all will want to read Rudy Favretti's new history, "Fifty Years of Trust"). We've been tremendously lucky to have those leaders devote themselves to our cause.

CCG has helped ensure that we continue to provide strong leadership, even as the leaders themselves inevitably change. It's been an important overhaul: We have now rewritten and clarified many of our policies; streamlined our complex committees; shortened the term limits of Trustees from five to three years, and required that officers of the Board also be Trustees. Going forward, we will prioritize the orderly succession, education and engagement of the Board you elect.

With those changes just completed, we have now begun a Strategic Planning effort to define the highest priorities for our energy and resources. Our increased commitments require us to agree on what is most important to us and focus ourselves on those goals, and we expect to complete this planning by early next year. Later in 2017, we will complete a similar effort devoted to improving our fundraising and development. The Board looks forward to sharing these outcomes with you.

Although we have focused much energy on improving our internal functions this year (as well as earning renewal of our national accreditation!), we have not neglected our community obligations. We have maintained a strong program of guided walks; acquired new land and easements; increased cooperation with neighboring land trusts; created new public programs to attract different audiences; found significant grant money to pay for equipment and services; and of course, put in the thousands of hours needed to maintain and improve the properties we care for. We owe a huge debt to the staff and hundreds of volunteers who make this possible.

With so much to do, we need your support now more than ever. By reading this far, we know that you are committed to the cause -- but we need our community



to grow, and our membership to increase. Each of your friends, colleagues, neighbors, or relatives that joins us is a gift that effectively doubles your own continuing support. Please mention us to people in your circle, and ask them to go to www.joshustrust.org for information and membership registration.

Thank you so much for your help in getting us to this momentous anniversary, and moving us forward to extend our remarkable record of achievements!

OFFICERS, TRUSTEES and COMMITTEES

Four Officers 2016-2017

President	Doug Hughes
Vice President	Karen Zimmer
Secretary	Nancy Silander
Treasurer	Allison Burchell-Robinson

Fifteen Trustees 2016-2019

Five Trustees with terms Expiring in 2017

Gwen Haaland, Rudy Favretti, Carl Lindquist, Jim Russel, Doug Hughes

Five Trustees with Terms Expiring in 2018

Pete Andersen, Allison Burchell-Robinson, Nancy Silander, Angelika Hansen, Gail Bruhn

Five Trustees with Terms Expiring in 2019

Ann Dunnack, David Parry, Warren Church, Karen Zimmer, Betsy Paterson



CURRENT STANDING COMMITTEES

(Note: Committee Chairs are in italics.)

Executive Committee. *D. Hughes*, K. Zimmer, Vice-President; A. Burchell-Robinson, Treasurer; Nancy Silander, Secretary; W. Church, Member At-Large

Resource Development Committee. *D. Parry*, C. Lindquist, J. Russel, N. Silander

Nominations and Governance Committee. *K. Zimmer*, W. Church, R. Favretti, G. Haaland, B. Paterson

Finance and Investments Committee. *A. Burchell-Robinson*, G. Bruhn, D. Hughes, P. Mochel, P. Aho, R. Beers, R. Weingart

Stewardship Committee. *A. Dunnack*; J. Russel, A. Lewis, G. Padick, B. Dubos, K. Mehrens, G. Griffin, R. Beach, S. Matthies, H. Bullard, and boundaries enforcement: W. Robinson

Historic Properties and Structures Sub-Committee *R. Favretti*, Mona Anderson

Volunteer Stewardship Sub-Committee.

Acquisitions Committee. *W. Church*, G. Haaland, P. Andersen, A. Dunnack, J. Sokoloski, J. Pagini, M. Welch, M. Kilpatrick, G. Padick

Education and Outreach. *N. Silander*, A. Hansen, M. Kilpatrick, M. Anderson, F. Funk, B. Paterson, B. Lehman

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The committee's work the past year has been primarily focused on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Trust through a variety of activities. Diana Perkins created the 50th logo which has been used on t-shirts, communications and posters for the 50th. Fortunately, Rudy Favretti began writing a history of the Trust a couple of years ago - "50 Years of Trust"- so it was ready for the opening celebration in April at the Eagleville Fire House. Thanks to the efforts of Marcia Kilpatrick, over 25 walks are taking place this spring, summer and fall. All are designated as "Passport Walks" – participants have been given small passports with pages for notes for each walk they participate in. When 18 are completed, the participant is entitled to a string backpack with the 50th logo. Requests were sent to local businesses and to the community to contribute to the 50th Anniversary – to date over \$12,000 has been received: 3 sponsors are at the Diamond level (Trustees, D. Kyle Stearns Construction, and Lester and Phyllis Foster Foundation), 3 at the Gold level, 2 at the Silver level and 5 at the Bronze level, as well as 10 at the Friends level. All will be acknowledged at the annual dinner and Gala on October 15 at Camp Horizons. The Gala will feature music for listening and dancing rather than a speaker. Sam Dodd, one of the founders, is anticipated to attend.

In addition to the 50th activities, the Atwood Farm and the Grist Mill have also been open. The Grist Mill is open on Sunday afternoons, thanks to its docents. The Atwood Farm was open for the annual statewide Open House day on June 11, for the plain air exhibit by several area artists in September, and for cider pressing in October (although apples will not come from our orchard because of the weather). Rudy Favretti, Mona Anderson and a host of volunteers have worked diligently to prepare the various outbuildings by thoroughly cleaning them and then arranging appropriate exhibits. Lighting in the barn was up-dated, and the exterior of the house was painted.

Other activities: In an effort to bring in younger families, Sue Beach organized and has supervised letterboxing on approximately 8 of the Trust properties. Maggie Ferron organized several summer activities for children, and Marcia Kilpatrick led a walk just for children. Marcia continued her weekly pop-up walks in the winter.

Volunteers attended several community days in the area e.g. Columbia, Mansfield, and UConn.

The newsletter continues to be sent out 4 times per year and is edited by Paul Stern. The mailing is now coordinated by Becky Lehmann and her crew.



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Resource Development Committee formed in 2016. David Parry was recruited to chair this committee which has been without a chair for several years. A committee was formed. Members include Carl Lindquist, James Russel, Allison Burchell-Robinson and Nancy Silander. The committee is responsible for raising the necessary funds to support the important activities of Joshua's Trust. Some of the committee responsibilities include direct donations of dollars, seeking gifts in kind, grants and foundation gifts, organizing fundraising events, conducting relationship activities with donors, and communications with our constituents. As we move forward our most important jobs will be to ensure that:

1. All of our many friends and volunteers are asked for their support and know our needs.
2. We expand the group of friends and supporters through friend raising activities and more effective communications.

For our committee's first effort, we set a goal of raising \$15,000 in sponsorships for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. To date we have raised \$12,961, with many of the gifts coming from new donors.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, we raised through our annual appeal \$60,113. Bequests for the year totaled an impressive \$113,484 with a generous bequest of \$110,000 from the estate of Susan Matos leading the way. Grants for special projects contributed \$17,350. A grant from the Land Trust Alliance assisted us in our successful accreditation effort and in Strategic Planning which is still in process.

LAND ACQUISITION COMMITTEE

New Acquisitions

Holt Property

The Trust has accepted the donation by Kay Holt of 20 acres of forested land off of Browns Road in Mansfield. This parcel abuts the 21 acre Holt-Kenney Preserve, 2.4 acre Holt Easement and 128 acre Mansfield town forest. It contains a meadow and well maintained trails.

Berg Easement

The Trust has accepted a donation of 4 acre easement on Laurel Lane in Mansfield from the Berg family. This easement protects nearly 1000 feet of frontage on the Mount Hope River.

Pending Acquisitions

Owners of three significant parcels totaling over 400 acres in Mansfield and Chaplin have offered to sell these properties to the Trust. These projects have been put on hold until the completion of the Trust's Strategic Acquisition Plan.

NOMINATING AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

In April of 2016, the Trustees made some revisions to our Articles of Incorporation to allow for changes in our By-Laws. By-Laws changes include changes to our committee structure and new term limits for Trustees. A Trustee may serve three 3-year terms, at which time they must wait six years before being eligible again. All Trustees were interviewed to make some determination about the length of time they had served the Trust in a leadership capacity. The Conservation Consulting Group, which helped draft the new By-Laws, developed a new chart of terms with those who wanted to continue to serve as Trustees. On May 12, 2016, the Trustees voted to cancel all existing Trustee terms and voted to begin new terms for the Trustees and Officers. Officers who had not been Trustees were voted in as Trustees. Officers Warren Church and Karen Zimmer were elected by the Board to become Trustees.

The Nominations and Governance Committee is also nominating the following two people for their first 3 year terms. Betsy Paterson from the town of Mansfield was voted as interim Trustee at the July board meeting. She has extensive leadership experience; she has served on many non-profit Boards, and is a well-known activist throughout the state. She was Mayor of Mansfield for 16 of her 18 years on the Town Council. Currently Betsy is Emeritus Board Member on the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Chairman of the Board of the Eastern Highland's Health District, member of the Boards of the Windham Hospital Foundation, the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry, and the University Town Gown Committee, and is the Chair of the Task Force on Sustainability for the CT Conference of Municipalities. During her time as Mayor, she supported the purchase of many acres of open space and believes that "preservation of open space is a key component of building a sustainable community".

Margaret (Maggie) Ferron lives in Mansfield and works for the Town of Mansfield as the town's Early Childhood Services Coordinator. She is a licensed attorney. Maggie is the General Coordinator for the Mansfield Community Playground Committee, Chair of the Mansfield Advocates for Children, and President of UConn Law School's International Law Society. She is a successful fundraiser and grant-writer, and would like to work with the Trust to engage young people so that they have an interest in the natural world and develop a passion for environmental protection.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Joshua's Trust hired a new auditor to conduct the audit of the fiscal year 2015-2016. Eric Rowley of Rowley and Associates is located in Concord, NH but travels throughout New England working with land trusts as they are his specialty. Eric will also be working with the Finance Committee to simplify and clarify the finances of the Trust and to aid in preparing reports that are easy to read and understand. A thorough review of all our funds will be conducted to determine if they are accurately categorized.

The committee works with the Executive Director, Michael Hveem, to create the annual budget after feedback is received from the committee chairs. The committee continues to recognize the need for additional funding sources. Our grant revenue is increasing and our recognition from larger foundations is moving beyond the introductory stage due to efforts taken by our Executive Director. A spending policy was incorporated into the new Investment Policy and work on a gift giving policy continues.

The Finance Committee was reformed this past May to include the former Investment Committee.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Paid membership through the end of this fiscal year in June dipped from the prior year, but increased support from Sustaining, Patron and Benefactor members have kept total dues stable. We need to grow the membership base and encourage the more timely renewals of current members.

Membership Category	<u>2013/2014</u>	<u>2014/2015</u>	<u>2015/2016</u>
Student	3	9	1
Individual	233	245	211
Family	291	315	278
Sustaining	83	91	105
Patron	11	14	15
Benefactor	3	3	6
Lifetime	7	7	7
Total	631	677	623
Dues	\$27,425	\$30,115	\$31,210



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, the Stewardship Committee was very busy. First we had to prepare for Land Trust Alliance re-accreditation. The Stewardship Committee revised the Management Plan Template to align with LTA Standards. Then each of our properties had to have an updated management plan. Our Conservation Coordinator, Ann Lewis, did much of this work. Every property had to have an annual steward report completed and on file. Thanks to all the Regional Coordinators, we met the deadline.

Stewardship Committee focused this year on getting all of our properties “spruced up”. The stewards and Regional Coordinators went out and looked over all the preserves, and lists of needed projects were drawn up. These projects included repainting or replacing signs; kiosks with new trail maps; new brochure boxes with JT flyers to advertise our mission; picking up litter; marking boundaries, trimming trails, constructing new trails, controlling invasives, forest management, and building bridges. Joshua’s Trust can be very proud of the condition of all the properties. All of this work was accomplished by our wonderful army of volunteers who logged well over 1,000 hours this year!

Our Historic Properties are looking good too. The Atwood Farm fields and stone walls were cleared of invasives. The house was painted, and volunteers spent countless hours cleaning and organizing the barn and blacksmith shop. The heirloom apple orchard was mapped. All of the windows in the Grist Mill were repaired.

A trail construction workshop, given by Dave Boon of the Appalachian Mountain Club, was conducted for interested stewards. New trails were constructed at Dunham Woods, Chenes Roche, and Hemphill Preserves. Two new parking lots were completed at Whetten Woods and Chenes Roche. Two new mowers were purchased for trail maintenance.

Volunteers are the backbone of Joshua’s Trust. The depth and breadth of their expertise and the generosity of the time they volunteer is amazing. In May we honored JT volunteers with a picnic at the Atwood Farm. Each volunteer who attended was given a Fiftieth Anniversary T-shirt, and was treated to a tour of the Atwood Farm.

Stewardship Committee presents two special awards each year. The first, the Sam Dodd Award, is given to a volunteer who completes a special project for the Trust. This year the Sam Dodd award goes to John Burton, who constructed all the new signs and kiosks for us.

The Mighty Oak Award, given to honor volunteers for longstanding and steady service to Stewardship, goes this year to Greg and Mona Anderson. They have been longtime stewards of Knowlton Hill Preserve, and have served on the Atwood Farm Committee.



VOLUNTEERS

Officers, trustees, committee members, stewards and monitors contributed approximately 10,000 hours of service during 2015/2016

Property Stewards

Peter Andersen, Greg & Mona Anderson, John Barclay, Rob and Susan Beach, Vern Beausoleil, Tom Bloom, Gene Bowen, Joe Charron, Karen Chrishanson, Greg Cichowski, Nan Cooper, Lisa Courcier, Ruth Cutler, Bill Darcy, Dan Donahue, Ann Dunnack, Michele & Andy Fesenmeyer, David & Susan Fowler, Jack Fulton, Leon Gardner, Claude Garritt, Jr, Bill Goodale, Gary Griffin, Henry Gruner, Joyce Guzowski, Gwen & Roald Haaland, Deborah & Robert Haas, John Hankins, Ken Hankinson, Christine Hare, Richard Hyde, Bill Ingalls, George Jacobi, Careen Jennings, Harry Johnson, Chris Juhl, Ronald Kelly, Quentin Kessel, Karrie and Kevin Kirchner, Bill Kocher, Jackie Kulig, Marc Lang, Dennis Latchum, Fiona Leek, Scott Lehmann, Kitty LeShay, Neal Lewis, Carl & Julie Lindquist, Bill Long, Kate Lynch, Lance Magnuson, John Manfred, Marian Matthews, Scott Matthies, Art McCain, Charles McCaughtry, Rich Merritt, John Morey, Mike Morrell, Steve Morytko, Harold Nelson, Valerie Oliver, Anne O'Neil, Axel Oschmann, Greg Padick, John Pagini, William Philbrick, Laura and Steve Price, Wally & Allison Robinson, Jim Russel, Peggy Rux, Juan Sanchez, Jr., Laura & Jon Sczurek, Jonathan Sgro, Jeannie & Stoddard Slayton, Andrew Smith, Craig Smith, John Sokoloski, Ann Marie Starck, Arthur Steele, Peter Stick, Eric Thomas, Julie Victoria, Terry Wakeman, Richard Weingart, Carl & Karen Wyatt, Nord Yakovleff

Regional Coordinators

Rob Beach, Bob Dubos, Ann Dunnack, Gary Griffin, Scott Matthies, Greg Padick, Jim Russel, Kim Mehrens

Conservation Easement Monitors

Peter Andersen, Alton Blodgett, Hank Bowers, Warren Church, Tom DeJohn, David & Susan Fowler, Joanne Freeman, Roseanne Gottier, Gary Griffin, Richard Hyde, George Jacobi, Quentin & Margaret Kessel, Wayne & Marcia Kilpatrick, Sharon Lee LaPlant, Scott Matthies, Charles McCaughtry, John Meyer, Steve Morytko, John Pagini, Don Schofield, John Sievel, John Sokoloski, Paul Stern, Stan Tetrault, Karen Zimmer

Trails Team

Ann Lewis, Chair, Rob Beach, Vern Beausoleil., John Burton, Joe Charron, Nan Cooper, Gary Griffin, Bill Ingalls, Rich Merritt, Steve Price, Laura Price. D. Sherman, Terry Wakeman

Stewardship Work Party Volunteers

Ann Lewis, Coordinator, Greg Anderson, Rob Beach, Sue Beach, Bill Bland, David Boone, Gene Bowen, Andrea Brotherton, Scott Brotherton, John Burton, Joe Charron, Nan Cooper, Bob Dubos, Ann Dunnack, Scott Dunnack, ECSU Center for Community Engagement, Chloe Ewalt, Dave Fowler, Susan Fowler, Marilyn Fox, Gary Griffin, Gwen Haaland, Shannon Haaland, Jeanette Haines, Brennan Hare, Katie Hare, Bill Ingalls, Careen Jennings, Jim Knox, Bill Kocher, Kathleen LaPorte, Dennis Latchum, Carl Lindquist, Peter Maines, Scott Matthies, Charles McCaughtry, John Morey, Neil Moynihan, Christine Njuki, Eric Njuki, Anne O'Neil, Greg Padick, Daniel Pierce, Dan Pierce Sr., Jane Pierce, Rachael Pierce, Matt Santeriti, Stephen Schrimmer, Andy Torres, UConn Delta Sigma Pi Fraternity, UConn Men's Rugby Team, Terry Wakeman, Karen Wyatt, Karen Zimmer.



Atwood Farm Volunteers

Mona Anderson, Chair, Carol Enright, Peggy Church, Warren Church, Art Mccann, Jeannie Slayton, Stoddard Slayton, Angelika Hansen, John Silander, Nancy Silander, Gwen Haaland, Bruce Clouette, Paul Aho, Nan Cooper, Greg Anderson, Fran Funk, Rudy Favretti, Michelle Baughman.

Grist Mill Volunteers

Fran Funk, chair, Quentin Kessel and Margaret Kessel, Rudy Favretti, Alan Barstow, Steffon Cambon, Bruce Clouette, Mary Feathers, Cheryl Lebeau, Shoshana Levinson, Gene McCracken, Ann Marie Meres, Michael and Michelle Palmer, Jen Stone and Bob Pirrie, Gordon and Pat Mochel, Ken Rawn, Julia Sherman, Bill Thorne, Ginny Walton, Amy Hunderlach, Gary Griffin, Rob Munhall, Terry Wakeman, Shirley King, Angelika Hansen.

Mapping Team

Paul Pribula, Vern Beausoleil, Scott Matthies, Bruce Gerber

Boundary Team

Hill Bullard, Rob Beach, Bill Bunnell, Gary Griffin, John Manfred, John Pagini

Office Volunteers

Margaret Welch, Marietta Johnson, Richard Weingart, Kim Mehrens

Social Media and Website

Dave Landry, Paul Stern, Vern Beausoleil, Doug Hughes

2015-2016 Walk Leaders

Marcia Kilpatrick, Chair of Education and Outreach, Marian Matthews, Jim Russel, George Jacobi, Ken Hankinson, Deb Russel, Chris Elpheck, Warren Church, Sue Beach, Eric Thomas, Steve Morytko, Christine Hare, Gary Griffin, Scott Matthies, Ann Dunnack, Bob Grindle, Dave Parry and Carl Lindquist.

50th Anniversary Committee

Nancy Silander, Coordinator, Rudy Favretti, Peggy Church, Jim Russel, Kim Mehrens, Gwen Haaland, Mona Anderson, Aline Booth, and Lesley Sweeney

Newsletter Volunteers

Becky Lehman and Carol Phillips, Coordinators, Paul Stern, Nancy Silander, Kitty LeShay, Sandy Baxter, Pat Biggs, Jane Ann Bobbit, Aileen Booth, Susan Brome, Anne Haas, Pat Hempel, Gail Hightower, Debra Hultgren, Leigh Jones-Bamman, Alice Kolega, Mig Mccarrick, Dorothy Mercier, Bonnie Ryan, Jennie Talbot, Jen Webster, Bette Weller, Jasmine Wolf, Karen Wyatt, Kathy Zartun, Susan Zito

Events Volunteers

Shauna Shane, Emine Cichowski, Becky Lehman, Andy Smith, Leslie Sweeney, Ann Lewis, Ann Dunnack

To these and the countless other volunteers not listed who have shared their talent and time, thank you so much! Without you, the Trust cannot exist.



Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust
Minutes of the 49th Annual Meeting, October 15, 2015
Camp Horizons in South Windham, CT

President Doug Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. More than 80 members attended the event, held in the new Commons building at Camp Horizons. This year's report was dedicated to Gertrude Houser Lamb, the first President of the Trust, who passed away this Spring.

President Hughes awarded two Presidential Citations. The first was given to Allison Burchell-Robinson, who has worked tirelessly as Treasurer, helped with Doug's transition to President, and contributed her extensive knowledge of Trust matters during the recent re-accreditation application. The second Citation was awarded to volunteer Margaret Welch, who worked countless hours finding documents and supporting the re-accreditation effort in many ways. He introduced our first-ever Executive Director, Michael Hveem, to the membership.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting; the motion passed.

Allison Burchell-Robinson gave the Treasurer's Report, noting that the Trust has protected hundreds of acres over the almost 50 years of the Trust. She encouraged members to continue to support the trust. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report, and the motion carried.**

Karen Zimmer reported on behalf of Nancy Silander and the Nominating Committee that three people have been nominated to the three open Trustee positions. Gail Bruhn of Mansfield, who is an MBA, CPA and CFA and retired senior financial executive has experience as a Board Treasurer for Northeast CT Economic Alliance, Chair of the Investment Committee of the EO Smith Foundation and is on the Advisory Council of the Hartford Society of CFAs. Dr. Carl Lindquist of Chaplin is a retired ophthalmologist and founder of the Windham Eye Group. He is a steward of the Hubbard Sanctuary and serves on a number of volunteer community boards and committees. David Parry of Windham recently retired from the Boy Scouts of America and was Executive Director at BSA Councils in MA and NJ for 17 years, with 6 years as Director of Development in the Hartford area. Ms. Zimmer made **a motion to elect Gail Bruhn, Carl Lindquist and David Parry to five year terms as Trustees. The motion was seconded and passed.**

Trustee and Past President Fran Funk presented the individual and group Conservation Awards, which recognize contributions toward preserving and maintaining natural lands. The individual award was given to Dr. David Wagner, who was President of Joshua's Trust from 1991-1994. During his term, the agreement with Isabel Atwood was signed. In addition, he helped secure the Trust's preservation of the unusual Atlantic White Cedar Bog in Windham. Dr. Wagner's work in conservation in New England is the reason for giving him this award. He has worked tirelessly to preserve the habitat of native insects. His books on caterpillars have educated the public about the importance of habitat preservation for these tiny creatures. He has gone far beyond the local area in terms of his influence and fame. His good friend Ben Williams, the President of the Wyndham Land Trust, accepted the award on his behalf.

The 2015 Group Conservation Award went to the Friends of the Shetucket River Valley. Their mission is to identify and protect open space within the Shetucket River corridor for the enjoyment of the public and the preservation of key habitat for fish and wildlife.



They assist other organizations to acquire and preserve identified land. A recent successful project was to help protect the 230 acre Watson Farm, now part of the Sprague Land Preserve. Joshua's Trust has supported their current project with a \$10,000 donation which will add to the \$180,000 D.E.E.P. grant to preserve the 111 acre Robinson property in Franklin. Gerry Stefon accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

Ann Dunnack, our new Chair of the Stewardship Committee, presented the Sam Dodd Stewardship Award to Bill Ingalls and Bill Bland, who have both been very active designing and building wonderful boardwalks and bridges on various Trust properties.

Former Trustee Gary Griffin presented the "Mighty Oak Award" to Ann Dunnack, for outstanding and long-term service to the Trust since 1977. She is a co-steward of the Utley Hill Preserve and is serving her second term as a Trustee. She recently agreed to chair the Joshua's Trust Stewardship Committee. She is also active in the town of Columbia, and chairs its Open Space Committee.

President Hughes adjourned the meeting at 8:10 after a motion was made, seconded and passed to conclude this year's Annual Business Meeting. Mike Hveem then introduced Kevin Case, who is the Northeast Director of the Land Trust Alliance. Mr. Case explained the purpose and advantages of the LTA, and the importance of our being accredited through that organization.

Drafted October 18, 2015
Karen Zimmer, Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT

The report below will refer to the unaudited statements for the complete fiscal year ended 6/30/2016. Copies of the audit will be available at the office once the audit has been completed.

Balance Sheet

- For the year 6/30/2016, total assets decreased by \$57,738.00. This loss was due to the vagaries of the stock market at the beginning of the fiscal year. Cash was up by \$106,598.00 due to a bequest of \$110,000.00. There were no land increases.

Statement of Activities

- The Statement of Activities for all funds reflects income in excess of expenses but if we had not received the afore mentioned bequest, we would be running a significant deficit.
- Dues and cash contributions were above budget but they represent only 26.5 percent of the total income.

Investments:

- We ended the fiscal year with a portfolio valued at \$4,544,996.00. In May of this year the Trust moved their investments from Laurel Grove Capital to Vanguard Institutional Group. This move came after the Investment Committee investigated several investment managers and determined that Vanguard would be the best custodian with lower fees and a lower risk more diverse portfolio.

This fiscal year we have budgeted to release up to 4% from our investment funds to help in covering our expenses. We have increased our grant revenue and continue to look for and investigate other revenue sources.

Allison Burchell-Robinson
Treasurer



Starting with upper left going clockwise:
Joshua's Trust Headquarters – the Atwood House; Cider Pressing at the Atwood Farm; Owen's Mere Trailhead sign.

Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust, Inc.

624 Wormwood Hill Road (P.O. Box 4), Mansfield Center, CT 06250-0004

Telephone and Fax: (860) 429-9023

Website: www.joshuastrust.org

Email: administration@joshuastrust.org

