



JOSHUA'S TRACT CONSERVATION AND HISTORIC TRUST

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017, ATWOOD FARM, MANSFIELD, CT

Present: Gail Bruhn, Warren Church, Michael Curtis, Ann Dunnack, Doug Hughes, David Parry, Betsy Paterson, Paul Pribula, Nancy Silander, Terry Wakeman, Karen Zimmer
Also: Michael Hveem (Executive Director)

Absent: Peter Andersen, Margaret Ferron, Angelika Hansen, Carl Lindquist, Marilyn Schreiber

K. Zimmer (President) opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and introduced the two new Trustees: M. Curtis and T. Wakeman.

The minutes from July 13, 2017 were approved as read, with 2 abstentions (Curtis and Wakeman)

Committee reports:

- A. Nominations and Governance (B. Paterson) – The committee has not met since July's Trustee meeting.
- B. Development (D. Parry) – 400 membership renewal letters were sent out in July. The community sponsorship program is underway and Trustees should give to Dave any names of community organizations and businesses that might be appropriate. He and Mike are continuing to work with the Eastern Connecticut Community Foundation on a possible grant for a birding census.
- C. Finance (G. Bruhn) (see report) - Membership is currently down, but renewals are coming in on a steady basis. Gail also submitted a report on the properties (fee simple and easements) the Trust has acquired since 2002, and the funds expended on a town per town basis (see report).
- D. Stewardship (A. Dunnack) – We now have all three engineering bids for the Grist Mill and the committee will decide whom to hire. The committee is also hiring a tree service to remove dead trees in consultation with the town of Mansfield's tree officer.
It is the consensus of the Trustees that Michael pursue the hiring of an appropriate plumber and well service to expedite the needed repairs to the basement pipes and the well of the Atwood house.
- E. Acquisitions (W. Church) – The Trust has had several inquiries about properties since July. The Carpenter property and DiGiulio properties are still in process.
“Natural energy” (e.g. windmills and solar panels) needs to be stated in deeds – whether to be permitted or not or modified.
- F. Education and Outreach (N. Silander) (see report) – there are 10 fall walks and several other events, some in conjunction with other organizations. Trustees are encouraged to attend at least one walk/year. A thank you for all Trust volunteers is being planned for February 11, 2018; the March 4 concert with Take Note! will be a fundraiser for the Grist Mill.
- G. Executive Director (M. Hveem) (see report) – We have filled 2 of the 3 intern positions for the fall. We continue to work with MassConn and the Highstead Foundation as well as land trusts in New London county to do a mapping project for all of eastern Connecticut.

Strategic Plan (see report) – the committee and “champions” have sent in the corrections to the consultants. We anticipate a final plan by November.

Strategic Landscape Conservation Plan (see report) – P. Pribula gave a presentation on the mapping that he and his UCONN intern have been working on. The committee is working on guidelines for land acquisition (fee simple or easement), understanding that they must be efficient and flexible. The Trustees will visit each of the 14 towns in our service area and initiate discussions with the appropriate staff and elected officials and committees. The list of questions for the towns needs modification – Trustees are asked to send their suggestions to Paul and Karen. W. Church will suggest the appropriate personnel for some of the towns.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Silander
Secretary

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Final: