

Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 4, Mansfield Center, CT 06250-0004

***FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING
& 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT***

October 15, 2014

6:00 P.M.

The Golf Club of Windham, Windham, CT



Photo taken by Trust President Fran Funk: Chenes Roches Access Tour #7





Madge Manfred

The 2014 Annual Report marking the 48th Annual Meeting is dedicated to former President Madge Manfred who passed away last Spring after a long illness during which she never forgot her commitment to life or to Joshua's Trust.

Madge was a tireless worker for the Trust. Her work was given with dedication, commitment, and great generosity for the Trust's best interests. She was selfless and seemingly tireless in her work, and never failed to remember that enjoying one's work is one of the great gifts of life.

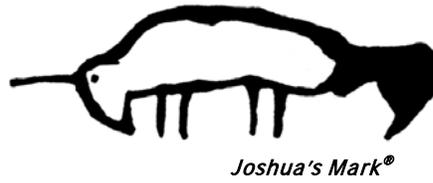
For twenty years, Madge, a member of the Trust since the 1970's, was either assisting or editor of the newsletter, and was intimately acquainted with the progress of the Trust. She was a person of wide interests, and, as an accomplished harpist, periodically gave benefit concerts at our historic Grist Mill, one of our first properties.

Her style shone brilliantly when the Trust was to dedicate the Pigeon Swamp Preserve in Lebanon: after a short meeting on site she tapped steward Joe Charron to go house to house to encourage people to attend the dedication. He took one side of the road and she took the other. He returned to their starting place after almost two hours. Madge didn't get back for another half an hour and was elated with all the good people she had talked with about the Preserve and the Trust. Dinner at home was indeed late, but she was in high spirits, had a great time, and enjoyed the experience absolutely.

Madge worked tirelessly and, according to those who were witness, almost singlehandedly, prepared the application which led to our accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance, a huge undertaking that has brought national standards of excellence to the Trust. She conceived of and directed the Legacy Campaign, our first ever capital campaign. Her husband John, said that over the years, "Madge was part of almost every committee." Madge continued to assist where she could. Her kindness, concern, and generous input, were always there to advance the Trust's goals.

Her sister Sharon Birmingham said it so well: "She was my role model... and continuously influenced and accentuated the positive things in life."





FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

October 15, 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda for Forty Eighth Annual Meeting	Page 4
Letter from the President	Page 5
Mission Statement /Officers and Trustees	Page 6 - 7
Committee Membership	Page 8
Committee Reports	Page 9 - 15
Our Volunteers	Page 16
Forty Seventh Annual Meeting Minutes: April 18, 2013...	Page 17 - 18
Treasurer's Report	Page 19



AGENDA

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 15, 2014; 6:00 pm
The Golf Club of Windham, Windham, CT

1. President's Opening Remarks (Frances Funk)
2. Presidential Citation (Frances Funk)
3. Approval of the Forty Seventh Annual Meeting Minutes April 18, 2013 (Members)
4. Treasurer's Report (Hamilton Holt)
5. Nominating Committee Report (Margaret Welch)
6. Election of New Trustees (Members)
7. Conservation Awards (Warren Church, Frances Funk)
8. Stewardship Award (John Weedon)
9. Adjournment (Frances Funk)

Our guest speaker will be Stan Malcolm, an Eastern Connecticut Photographer who focuses on the natural world. His work has earned first place awards and the people's choice honor in annual Connecticut Audubon Society competitions. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) awarded Malcolm a Green Circle Award for his ongoing project documenting the Air Line Rail Trail.

In 2003, American Trails (AT) honored his "Along the Air Line..." website for the best use of photography in a trail-related site, and again in 2010, AT honored him with its National Trails' Trail Advocacy Award for Connecticut. His nature photography has been featured in the Hartford Courant and regional publications. He has been interviewed on Public Radio's WFCR's program "Field Notes".

A number of his photos have appeared in science textbooks, field identification guidebooks, and scientific journals. The Trailside Gallery in Northampton, MA, the CT Audubon Center in Glastonbury, CT, and the CT DEEP have hosted major exhibits of his work.

An entomologist by training with a Ph.D. in evolutionary biology from UConn, he has been honored with both a species and a genus named for him. His publications on the beetle family Hydrophilidae are still referred to by current researchers. Stan is retired from a career advocating learning technologies and performance support systems in the corporate sector. He earlier served as a medical entomology officer in the US Army. In retirement, he has returned to entomology with several research publications in progress, as well as teaching photography.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Frances Funk

July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

The State of the Trust... Finances took a front row seat with the completion of the successful Legacy Campaign. A change for the Trust is the vote to hold the Annual meeting after the close of the fiscal year to show a complete picture of the year's finances.

Our Acquisition Committee has been amazing: The committee makes many visits to assess proffered property to ensure it meets Trust criteria before recommending acceptance to the Board. The committee's balanced view and assessment is thorough and impressive. Our Stewardship, Acquisition, Easement, and Boundary Committees work steadily to ensure properties are secure both legally and materially. The Boundary Committee is very busy checking property lines for accuracy. Both the Easement and Boundary Committees work hard to solve amicably what can sometimes be fairly knotty issues. The hard-working Trails Committee, cheerfully keeps our trails safe and well-cleared to put our best foot forward for the public!

The Atwood Committee's auction at the Farm created a great deal of interest in Trust activity, and helped publicize Isabelle Atwood's wishes to have her family farm preserved for posterity. The Trustees voted to move the office to the Farm.

The redesigned Website was launched in February. UConn Digital Media and Design Department students and Trustee Doug Hughes worked hard to make this a success. Our website www.joshuastrust.org allows potential members and others to learn about the Trust.

All of our committees have been run by volunteers since the inception of the Trust. Grist Mill docents give their Sunday afternoons to show visitors the features of that beautiful and unique stone mill. The Outreach Committee has a very public face with walks or a booth at local events. Kudos to all our Trustees, committees, and volunteers who give so generously of their time. This year our volunteer hours topped 12,300.

The Land Trust Alliance accreditation requires specific and high standards. The Trust's practices and policies are being evaluated now to assure reaccreditation in 2016.

An ad hoc Search Committee has posted a job description for an Executive Director. It is becoming clear that the Trust is outgrowing the capacity of volunteers to fulfill all the demands needed to meet Trust obligations. Hiring a professional will bring greater proficiency in finding grants, coordinating volunteers, planning, and will enable JT to meet greater challenges. This need for professional staff has been underscored by the organizational skills and work that our part-time professional Conservation Coordinator, Stephanie Clark, brings to the Trust. Her knowledge and insight are invaluable to the committees with whom she works.

It is remarkable to learn that so many people think of us, how many walk our trails and, often, privately appreciate what they find. More often than you would guess, people turn to us and quietly consider donating their property, often planning for this eventuality years in advance. Others quietly give large monetary donations. This year, we have added over 100 acres to the Trust's list of protected properties,

and have topped 5,500 acres held in perpetuity through fee simple, easement, or collaboration with the towns of our area.

This is the Trust's 48th annual meeting, in two more years we will celebrate our 50th anniversary. A half-century is a time of reflection on accomplishments past, and planning for challenges of the future. The Trust will face many challenges as we continue to grow, and grow we will if the number and quality of properties offered to us is an accurate predictor. I am confident that our Board of Trustees and Officers have the expertise to handle new challenges, and the knowledge and skills to be able to meet them successfully. Thank you for all your support throughout the year!

MISSION STATEMENT

As specified in the Trust Document, Article II, the goals of the trust are to:

- Preserve the rural character of the area for the benefit and well-being of the inhabitants;
- Acquire and assure the preservation and maintenance of land in the interest of conservation of natural resources and development of an open-space program;
- Acquire and assure the preservation and maintenance of land and/or improvements to land having a unique and historical significance to the area;
- Engage in and otherwise promote the scientific study of local natural resources including plants, animals, birds and other wildlife;
- Preserve and maintain areas for education and training in nature lore and camping.



Officers 2013-2014

President _____ Frances Funk
Immediate Past President _____ Allison Burchell-Robinson
Vice-President _____ Mona Anderson
Vice-President, Acquisitions _____ Richard Hyde
Vice-President Historic Properties _____ Vacant
Secretary _____ Carol Enright
Treasurer _____ Hamilton Holt
Assistant Treasurer _____ Vacant

Trustees 2013-2018

Doug Hughes, Deborah Lee, Bonnie Ryan, Margaret Welch
Terms expiring in 2014

Robert Dubos, Eric Thomas, Chuck Vinsonhaler
Terms expiring in 2015

Brent Gottier, Gwen Haaland, Scott Matthies, Nancy Silander
Terms expiring in 2016

Rudy Favretti, Fran Funk, Angelika Hansen, Greg Padick
Terms expiring in 2017

Don Cianci, Bill Ingalls, Jim Russel
Terms expiring in 2018



COMMITTEES 2013-2014

(Note: Committee Chairs are in italics.)

BY-LAWS COMMITTEES

Executive Committee: *F. Funk*, President; A Burchell-Robinson, Past President; M. Anderson, Vice-President; R. Hyde, Vice President for Acquisitions; C. Enright, Secretary; H. Holt, Treasurer; T. Taigen; E. Thomas, Members at Large.

Finance Committee: *B. Gottier*; A. Burchell-Robinson, S. Clark, T. Holt, D. Hughes, P. Mochel, J. Russel, C. Vinsonhaler.

Investment Committee: *H. Holt*, R. Beers, A. Burchell-Robinson, B. Gottier, P. Mochel, J Sokoloski; F. Funk, ex officio.

Membership Committee: *D. Hughes*, M. Johnson, B. Ryan.

Nominating Committee: *Mona Anderson*, D. Hughes, D. Lee, B. Ryan, M. Welch.

Stewardship Committee: *J. Weedon*, *M. Robie* (co-chairs); H. Bullard, B. Dubos, A. Dunnack, G. Griffin, T. Harrington, J. Hill, A. Lewis, S. Matthies, G. Padick, W. Robinson, J. Russel, S. Clark, ex officio.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Atwood Committee: *M. Anderson*, C. Adams, P. Aho, D. Cianci, P. Church, W. Church, B. Clouette, C. Enright, G. Haaland, A. Hansen, L. Hultgren, A. McCann, J. Silander, N. Silander, J. Slayton, S. Slayton, G. Wagner.

Conservation Restrictions (Easements) Committee: *W. Church*, P. Andersen, R. Beers, J. Freeman, J. Hankins, J. Pagini, M. Welch.

Development Committee: Chair and Committee Members Needed

Gristmill Management Committee *Fran Funk*, *Interim*, Bruce Clouette, Rudy Favretti, Cheryl LeBeau, Quentin Kessel, Rob Munhall, Terry Wakeman, Ginny Walton.

Land Acquisition and Planning Committee: *W. Church* (*Interim Chair*), P. Andersen, W. Church, D. Donahue, R. Gottier, G. Haaland, R. Hyde, M. Kilpatrick, G. Padick, J. Pagini, J. Sokoloski, J. Weedon, M. Welch.

Newsletter Committee: *P. Stern* (*editor*), N. Silander. Mailing Coordinator: C. Phillips.

Outreach and Education Committee: *M. Kilpatrick*, A. Hansen.

Ad Hoc: Conservation Awards Committee: *M. Anderson*, G. Anderson, K. Holsinger, N. Silander.

50th Anniversary Committee: *M. Anderson*, G. Anderson, W. Church, R. Favretti.

ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Archivist: J. Blanshard

Church Farm Liaison: P. Szczys



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Distinct from the Investment committee and the office of the Treasurer, the Finance Committee primarily focuses on policy making to protect the long term financial health of the Trust. In 2013, the Finance Committee enacted policies regarding the Legacy Campaign and the expansion of the current level of paid staff.

Ongoing projects will include budgeting and analysis of restricted gifts accepted by the Trust. As Joshua's Trust has grown in size and complexity the Finance Committee provides an additional forum for sound financial controls that complement the work of both the Treasurer and Investment Committees.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Despite adding more than 85 new members this year, total membership was down by more than 7% in the first months of the new fiscal year. Overall, dues are up slightly thanks to the increased generosity of members choosing the Sustaining and Benefactor categories. The new Student category received only 3 members.

Membership Category	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Student	-	3
Individual	258	233
Family	325	291
Sustaining	76	83
Patron	11	11
Benefactor	0	3
Lifetime	7	7
Total	677	631
Dues	\$26,885	\$27,425

Membership is a critical component of our organization, with dues only a small part of the importance that new and renewing members have in our volunteer organization, and this dip is a serious concern to the Trust.

In switching our membership year to run from June to July, membership renewal notices went out this spring rather than last fall, and it may be that long-time members did not follow the change. The membership drive this year also fell close to generous giving by members to the Legacy Campaign as well as gifts in honor of Madge Manfred, who led this committee so well for so many years, and it may be that members mistakenly believed that their donations to those funds included membership. The committee will work to understand the issues and reverse this loss in the coming months.

In the meantime, we urge all members to check their membership status and to encourage friends and neighbors to join Joshua's Trust.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The committee recruited Peter Andersen of Willington, Ann Dunnack of Columbia and Doug Hughes of Mansfield to stand for election for terms ending in 2019. Election of officers will take place at the November meeting.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Stewardship Committee (Committee) met every other month except during the summer. Maura Robie and John S. Weedon became co-chairs of the committee in September, 2013. Tom Harrington joined the committee as a regional coordinator of 10 preserves and Ann Lewis agreed to take over chair of the trails subcommittee. The co-chairs are thankful to Stephanie Clark who provides guidance and administrative assistance to the Committee.

Boundary Maintenance

Hill Bullard and his subcommittee continue to devote many hours to identify and mark preserve boundaries. This year, they completed boundary work at Potter Meadow, George and Margaret Hemphill Woods, and Mt. Hope Nature Sanctuary, and are nearly done with work at Chenes-Roches, Utley Hill Preserve, Hall Preserve, and Grist Mill. Also, Hill is working with the Committee to resolve a boundary dispute with an abutter to one of the trust's preserves.

Coordination with the Land Acquisition Committee

The Committee continues to advise the Land Acquisition Committee to ensure that any significant stewardship opportunities and any potential problems are identified during the evaluation of proposed land donations.

Grant

The three year Environmental Quality Incentives Program grant for habitat improvement at Skungamaug Meadows ends with the 2014 calendar year. Over the three year period, the grant will have generated \$11,594 in income and \$3,529 in expenditures with a net gain to the Trust of \$8,065. The net gain is primarily due to the many hours of volunteer labor used to carry out the eradication of non-native invasive plants, both by Trust work parties and the efforts of two stewards, Anne O'Neil and Eric Thomas.

Management Plans

Joan Hill and the regional coordinators, with input from the stewards, performed a yeomen's job of updating over 60 preserve management plans and preparing plans for new preserves – Devotion Woods, George and Margaret Hemphill Woods, Hall Preserve, Mt. Hope Wildlife Sanctuary, and Warren Stone Preserve. The management plans will continue to be updated every five years.



Post accreditation management plans (2011 to present) were reviewed against accreditation requirements to ensure compliance.

Separate standing committees were created and are responsible for management plans for the two historic properties – Grist Mill and Atwood Farm.

GIS data developed for all new properties with summary illustrated in large scale map of preserves and easements to be used at public outreach events.

Invasive eradication continues at Hubbard Sanctuary, Pigeon Swamp Preserve, Center Meadow, and Skungamaug Meadows.

Policies

The Committee drafted and approved a revision to the process used to address encroachment and enforcement issues and is adjusting volunteer safety practices concerning the use of power equipment and handling all fuel and chemicals.

Stewards

As the Trust continues to conserve more land, it has had to grow its network of volunteers responsible for monitoring, defending and managing the Trust's 64 preserves. The Committee is always interested in welcoming new volunteers to help the Trust meet its permanent stewardship obligations. We have welcomed a number of new stewards to help with recently acquired preserves or to fill vacancies. To help with recruitment, a call for volunteer stewards was put in the newsletter this past year.

Trails

The trails subcommittee welcomed a new chair, Ann Lewis, and said a sad goodbye to its past chair, Gary Griffin. The Committee is very appreciative for all of Gary's hard work and dedication. The subcommittee completed a wide range of projects from removing fallen trees to installing bridges and boardwalks.

New board member, Bill Ingalls, created a volunteer database that Ann uses to recruit volunteers for various preserve projects.

Training

A new steward workshop was held in February, 2014, and a chainsaw safety training was given in the summer by Axel Oschmann, Allanach-Wolf steward.

ATWOOD COMMITTEE

The committee supervised an auction of items in the house in October 2013. We have completed the parking area and driveway required by the town and extended the existing driveway to accommodate handicap parking. A handicap bathroom and a handicap ramp have been installed and some lights added to the outside areas. All permits from the town have been received. The house was thoroughly cleaned and a few repairs to the plaster and windows were made. It is ready for the Trust to move its offices there. Clean up of the out buildings has begun. The orchard had the first stage of trimming. A local farmer is using the fields for hay and pasture.

CONSERVATION RESTRICTION COMMITTEE

The Conservation Restriction Committee is responsible for the annual monitoring and enforcement of our Conservation Easements. During the report period all of the easements were monitored by our volunteer monitors. One major violation was observed: A neighbor was found to be harvesting stones from a boundary wall on one of our easement. The neighbor claimed that the wall was on his property but after a survey showed it to be a boundary wall the neighbor restored the wall. This same neighbor installed a deer stand on the easement. The neighbor removed it after being notified.

The Committee is also responsible for approving certain activities allowed by the conservation easements. One easement owner submitted plans to subdivide his easement and allow an equestrian center to be built on a large field on the easement. This plan was turned down because it did not conform with the easement.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

No report - Chair and Committee members needed.

GRIST MILL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Grist Mill Committee is following the Five Year Management Plan and is having the Mill windows restored and repaired. Other improvements including an inspection of the electrical system are in process. Visitors continue to stop by to tour the Mill on Sundays between May and October, with active and knowledgeable docents on hand to guide them.



LAND ACQUISITION ANNUAL REPORT

Donated Properties:

There were two properties donated to and accepted by the Trust during the period covered by this report: Dan Donahue and Susan Harrod of Ashford donated two building lots totaling 4.5 acres to the Trust. This property is adjacent to their house lot on Route 89 in Ashford and borders on the Mount Hope River. The Donahue-Harrod family also donated a conservation easement to the Trust on a .7 acre parcel in back of their house. The donated lots plus the conservation easement now protect over 800' of the river.

Henry Bowers of Scotland donated a 20 acre parcel in Scotland to the Trust. This is the open space parcel on a small subdivision off of Rt. 97.

Bequeathed Properties:

1. The Trust accepted 65 acres bequeathed by long time member and volunteer Isabel Atwood. This land includes a house, barn, other out buildings, an orchard, fields, pasture and a forested area. Isabel's will requires that the Trust convert the farm buildings into a farm museum. She also left over \$2,500,000 in capital and other assets to support the museum and property. The Trust is in the process of moving its headquarters to this property.
2. The Trust also accepted an 8 acre parcel on Blair Road in Willington bequeathed by Esther Labbee. This parcel contains a house and barn as well as a 5 acre field. In 2004 Esther donated 55 acres of adjoining forest to the Trust. (Chenes Roches) The Trust plans to sell the 7 acres of the parcel to maintain it as a farm and keep one acre to provide access to Chenes Roches.
3. Finally the Trust accepted a 25 acre parcel in Windham bequeathed by David Hall. This forested property is downstream from the Mansfield Hollow Dam and has nearly ½ mile of frontage on the Natchaug River.

As of June 30, 2014 The Trust owned 2360 acres on 66 parcels.

Conservation Easements:

In addition to the .7 acre easement donated by the Donahue-Harrod family, the Trust accepted a conservation easement on 15 acres of land on North Bigelow Road in Hampton from Lawrence Goodheart and Ellen Embardo. This land contains a 5 acre hay field and a 7 acre wood lot.

As of June 30, 2014 the Trust held 59 conservation easements representing 1958 acres preserved.

Collaborative Conservation Projects

The Trust partnered with two of our member communities to collaborate on large-scale conservation projects the last fiscal year.

1. Town of Coventry - Williams Property. This 62 acre parcel abuts our own Elizabeth Couch Preserve and is characterized by its frontage and scenic views of the Willimantic River, hayfields, wetlands and forestland. The Trust has agreed to contribute \$15,000 to the purchase of this property as part of the matching funds required by the CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection Open Space Grant.

2. Town of Columbia - Kassman Development Rights. This 54 acre parcel of farmland abuts the 108 acre Szegda Farm, which the Trust also helped to protect in perpetuity. This project was a collaboration between the Town of Columbia, the CT Dept. of Agriculture, as well as the Trust. The Trust has agreed to contribute \$10,000 to the purchase of the development rights as part of the matching funds required by the Dept. of Agriculture.

As of June 30, 2014 the Trust has collaborated with our member communities to protect 1310 acres.

NEWSLETTER

Four newsletters of 4-6 pages each were created in 2013 (March, April, September, December), written by Nancy Silander and edited by Paul Stern, alumni editor at the Hartford Courant. Between 800 and 1000 newsletters were mailed to members, libraries, commissions, and other conservation organizations. A crew of volunteers, organized by Carol Phillips, folded, tabbed and labeled each copy. The newsletter is also sent electronically to those members who request it. Approximately 120 members now receive it by email. Doug Hughes posts it on the web site, including older editions.

In 2014 the newsletter will be published every 3 months (rather than 2 in the spring): March, June, September, December.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Traveling photography exhibits were held at the Willimantic Library, the Willimantic Coop, and at JT Wine Tasting event.

Information Booths were presented at the University of Connecticut Eco Day event, Willimantic Riverfest, Coventry Farmers Market, the Lebanon Farmers Market, Mansfield Festival on the Green and all but 2 of the Third Thursday events.

Walks were held covering topics such as birding, ferns, trees, wildflowers, woodcocks, American Chestnut and other interesting topics, work done on the properties and historical information about the specific properties and their acquisition. The walks were held on many different seasonal days and even two where snowshoeing was enjoyed. Walks were held twice monthly with one being on a weekday and another on the week end. Walks were held at Bradley-Buchanan (Mansfield), Josias Byles Sanctuary (Ashford), Tinkerville Brook (Ashford), Hubbard Sanctuary (Chaplin with 3), Two Sisters (Chaplin), Utley Hill Preserve (Columbia), H. E. Preston Nature Sanctuary (Hampton), Pigeon Swamp Preserve (Lebanon), Holt-Kinney Woods (Mansfield) and Skungamaug Meadows (Tolland with 2). Hikes were also held as part of the Walktober event. An event with a walk at Connecticut Audubon's Trail Wood for our working with another like minded organization.

Publicity was sent for all the walks and other events to the newspapers, Last Green Valley website, the JT website and put on face book. Many also went to members via a master JT member list.



CONSERVATION AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Conservation Awards Committee met by phone, consulted with community leaders and determined the awardees, gathered information for introductions, ordered certificates and plaques.

50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The 50th Anniversary Committee is in a data gathering phase and did not meet. Rudy Favretti has been working on the records of the Trust at the schoolhouse and at the Dodd Center.

JOSHUA'S TRUST VOLUNTEERS

Officers, trustees and committee members, stewards and monitors contributed approximately 12,000 hours of service during 2013

Thank You, JT Volunteers, One and All!

Property Stewards

Phil Alexandrin, Peter Andersen, Greg & Mona Anderson, George & Ann Bailey, John Barclay, Rob and Susan Beach, Tom Bloom, Joe Charron, Albert Ching, Karen Chrishanson, Greg Cichowski, Ruth Cutler, Bill Darcy, Dan Donahue, Ann Dunnack, Maggie Ferron, Christian Fongemie, David & Susan Fowler, Jack Fulton, Leon Gardner, Claude Garritt, Jr., Gary Griffin, Henry Gruner, Gwen & Roald Haaland, Deborah & Robert Haas, John Hankins, Ken Hankinson, Christine Hare, Tom Harrington, Kay Holt, Richard Hyde, George Jacobi, Careen Jennings, Harry Johnson, Keith Johnson, Chris Juhl, Ronald Kelly, Marc Lang, Fiona Leek, Scott Lehmann, Kitty LeShay, Neal Lewis, Carl & Julie Lindquist, Bill Long, Kate Lynch, Lance Magnuson, John Manfred, Scott Matthies, Charles McCaughtry, John Morey, Mike Morrell, Harold Nelson, Richard Norgaard, Valerie Oliver, Anne O'Neil, Axel Oschmann, Greg Padick, John Pagini, Wendy Parker, William Philbrick, Steven Rackliffe, John Reynolds, Wally & Allison Robinson, Peggy Rux, Juan Sanchez, Jr., Laura & Jon Sczurek, Jonathan Sgro, Craig Smith, John Sokoloski, Ann Marie Starck, Arthur Steele, Henry Swart, Rachel Tambling, Eric Thomas, Steve Toubman, Julie Victoria, Richard Weingart, Carl & Karen Wyatt, Nord Yakovleff

Regional Coordinators

Bob Dubos, Ann Dunnack, Gary Griffin, Tom Harrington, Scott Matthies, Greg Padick, Maura Robie, Jim Russel, John Weedon

Conservation Easement Monitors

Peter Andersen, Alton Blodgett, Hank Bowers, Warren Church, Tom DeJohn, Joanne Freeman, Roseanne Gottier, Gary Griffin, Joan Hill, Richard Hyde, George Jacobi, Quentin Kessel, Wayne & Marcia Kilpatrick, Sharon Lee LaPlant, Terry LaVoie, Lance Magnuson, Scott Matthies, Charles McCaughtry, John Meyer, Steve Morytko, John Pagini, Corrine Rueb, Juan Sanchez, Jr., Patty Shannon, John Sokoloski, James & Kathy Stebbins, Paul Stern, Ted Taigen, Stan Tetrault, Karen Zimmer

Mailing Volunteers

Carol Phillips - coordinator: Sandy Baxter, Jane Blanchard, Aline Booth, Azizun Fasihuddin, Jean Haas, Becky Lehmann, Mig McCarrick, Eileen Metzger, Jeanne Rice, Bonnie Ryan, Nancy Silander, Jennie Talbot, Barbara Troyer, Jen Webster, Jasmine Wolf, Marty Yutzey, Karen Zimmer, Susan Zito

Gristmill Volunteer Docents

Alan Barstow, Steffon Cambon, Bruce Collette, Mary Feathers, Quentin & Margaret Kessel, Cheryl Lebeau, Shoshana Levinson, Gene McCracken, Ann Marie Meres, Gordon & Pat Mochel, Michael Palmer, Jen and Bob Pirrie, Ken Rawn, Julia Sherman, Bill Thorne, Ginny Walton.

Office Volunteers

Marietta Johnson, Hamilton Holt, Margaret Welch,



Minutes of 47th Annual Meeting, April 18, 2013

President's Opening Remarks. President Allison-Burchell Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. She welcomed all and explained that her sling was the result of rotator cuff surgery. She thanked Mona Anderson, Gwen Haaland and Nancy Silander for organizing the dinner, Ray Crossen for providing the location and caterer Tom O'Connor for the food. She remembered founding member Isabelle Atwood to whom this year's Annual Report is dedicated, who we all thought would live forever. Izzy chaired the Gristmill Committee and Special Events Committee until her death last August. She left her farm and a sizable endowment to the Trust. Burchell-Robinson also spoke of the absent Madge Manfred who recently received the Connecticut Land Conservation Council individual award. Madge is a former Newsletter editor, former Trustee, former President, former Chair of the Accreditation Committee and current Chair of the Capital Campaign.

President's Award. Burchell Robinson spoke of Pat Mochel as her friend, mentor and tireless coworker. Treasurer Tony Holt thanked Mochel for making the 12 years they worked together easy. Executive Director Stephanie Clark thanked Mochel for helping her in her first year with the Trust. And former President Warren Church recalled how Mochel was a valuable resource and a constant presence in the office. Mochel spoke of the concept of perpetuity. She thanked Holt for being a wonderful boss. She noted that she worked with four presidents, Hill Bullard, Manfred, Church and Burchell-Robinson. And she thanked Marietta Johnson for persuading her to accept the job.

Approval of 46th Annual Meeting Minutes. **Church moved and Holt seconded that the minutes of the 46th Annual Meeting, April 19, 2012 be approved. The motion passed.**

Treasurer's Report. Holt reported that the Trust's finances are in great shape. He noted that total assets have increased by \$398,000, largely because of the Legacy Campaign, which now has pledges of more than \$550,000. JT's total assets have surpassed \$10,000,000. On the income statement expenses exceeded income. The Gristmill is sound financially. Investments are doing well. And the Legacy Fund has been quite successful.

Nominating Committee Report. Trustee Gay Wagner presented the nominees; Jim Russel of Windham Center has held several positions in the insurance industry over the course of his 40 year career, Don Cianci has practiced law for 35 years, has served as first selectman of Columbia, and is especially proud of his work helping the town purchase the Szedga Farm, and Wagner, herself, is an architectural historian, former teacher, former Director of Museums for Historic New England and long time participant in Hampton commissions. **Wagner moved and Tom Terry seconded that the nominations be closed. The motion passed. Church moved and Holt seconded that Jim Russel, Don Cianci and Gay Wagner be elected Trustees of Joshua's Trust with terms expiring in 2018. The motion passed.**

Stewardship. Clark announced that Trustee Scott Matthies was the winner of this year's Sam Dodd award for a single project in stewardship. Matthies, a steward of the Preston Nature Sanctuary in Hampton secured a grant and worked to eradicate invasives on the property. He is also a regional coordinator. Gary Griffin was given the Mighty Oak Award for long service as a steward. He has built bridges, maintained kiosks and fought invasives during his many years on the Stewardship Committee. Both attractive awards were designed by volunteer Corrine Rueb.

Conservation Awards. Greg Anderson announced that the Conservation Award for an individual was won by Congressman Joe Courtney, a friend who has been supported by national conservation organizations and who has supported local projects such as Eight Mile River and the work of the Last Green Valley. Emma Pietrantonio accepted the award on behalf of Congressman Courtney who was out of the country, citing the Congressman's service on the Agriculture Committee as further proof of his commitment to conservation. The Coventry Regional Farmer's Market was given the group award for their nine years of supporting local farmers.

Adjournment. Burchell-Robinson asked all award winners to come forward to have their pictures taken. Trustee Ted Taigen introduced the evening's speaker, Dr. David Warner. Warner, a former trustee and former president of Joshua's Trust, is from the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UConn. He does research on butterflies and moths and has written six books on them. His other passion is teaching science and he has been an eager participant in many bio-blitzes. His presentation, entitled "Joshua's Trust Lands, Imperiled Species and Stewardship" followed a short break. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



TREASURER'S REPORT

The report below will refer to the unaudited statements for the complete fiscal year ended on 6/30/14. Copies of these statements are available at the office. The audit is now underway.

Balance Sheet

- For the fiscal year ended on 6/30/14, total assets increased by \$3.7 million. Cash was down \$501 thousand reflecting the movement of excess cash to investments. Investments were up a little more than \$3.5 million due to the movements of cash and to the receipt of the Atwood bequest funds. The value of Land increased by \$680 thousand due to the receipt of the Atwood Farm.

Income Statement

- In the Operating Fund, income exceeded expenses, with unrealized investment gains excluded, by \$4 thousand, a distinct improvement over 2013. Expenses were under budget by \$12 thousand. Without competition from Legacy Fund, regular contributions and dues returned to normal levels, although it is hoped that "normal" will increase in coming years.

Gristmill

- Gristmill finances have been severally stressed this past year. In addition to the repairs to the garage previously discussed, the Cross House furnace had to be replaced and extensive work was done on the septic system. The septic system seems to be OK now. The result was a deficit, excluding unrealized investment gains, of \$12,600. Future Gristmill income, again excluding unrealized investment gains, should be sufficient to cover normal expenses and begin the repair of the investment accounts which were overworked this past year.

Investments

- The Investment Committee meets several times a year and will meet on September 24th with Leora Garner, of Laurel Grove Capital, the firm which manages the JT investment accounts. As has been reported, there are two entirely separate accounts, one for the Atwood Farm and the other for all other JT investments.

Legacy Fund

- The fund stands now at about \$750,000 pledged to date. It should be noted that \$7,231 in contributions, in memory of Madge Manfred, were received into the Legacy Fund which she was so instrumental in making supremely successful.

I am once again pleased to report that Trust operations are in good shape except that we need to keep a sharp eye on the Gristmill finances.

Respectfully submitted, Hamilton Holt-Treasurer



Photos taken by Trust President Fran Funk: starting with upper left going clockwise: Stewardship Training at the Trust Office; Windham White Atlantic Cedar Bog; Warren Church manning info booth at Willimantic's 3rd Thursday; presenting a check to the Town of Columbia for the collaborative purchase of the development rights of the Szegda Farm.

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