

Cheshire Land Trust, Inc.
Annual Meeting of Members
March 25, 2021

The annual meeting of the members of the Cheshire Land Trust, Inc. (CLT) was held on Thursday, March 25, 2021. The meeting was held via Zoom due to in-person gathering restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 virus. A quorum of members being present via Zoom or telephone, the meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by CLT President William Stanley. The list of members present at the meeting follows these minutes.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Stanley asked for approval of the minutes of the annual meeting of members held on May 21, 2020. He noted that a copy of the minutes was made available for review on the CLT's website. On motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved as presented.

President's Report

Mr. Stanley thanked former President Joy VanderLek and Vice President Karen Schnitzer for their tireless efforts on behalf of the CLT. He then reviewed a number of accomplishments for the CLT in 2020, including:

- the CLT's key involvement in the town's acquisition of 45 acres on Fenn Road. He expressed special thanks to Dave Schrumm for his dedication to this project, which took over a year;
- Ongoing trail restoration project at Ives Farm through a series of Eagle Scout projects, spearheaded by Randy Solomon;
- Invasive removal and native plant restoration in Fresh Meadows. Mr. Stanley gave special thanks to Joy VanderLek and Karen Schnitzer for their efforts on this project.

Mr. Stanley reported that the CLT plans to focus on monitoring CLT properties in 2021, including verifying boundaries, particularly where there are abutting residential neighbors. He encouraged any member who lives near a CLT property to become a land steward.

Mr. Stanley stated that the CLT board has also begun to take a detailed look at Ives Farm, to assess current conditions and to determine what needs to be done to ensure it remains a vibrant part of the Cheshire community for years to come. He expects this analysis and assessment to take most of the year to complete and will report back once the project is complete.

Mr. Stanley reported that periodic work parties will continue throughout the year to maintain trails and clean up after the windstorms of 2020 and the damage done by the Emerald Ash Borer. He expressed optimism that the CLT would be able to hold an in-person event later in the year.

Mr. Stanley noted that the CLT's primary mission is to protect land in its natural state. He stated that the CLT is always on the lookout for opportunities to protect more land from development and asked that members who become aware of any such opportunities contact the CLT so that it can investigate further.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Schrumm commented on the CLT's financial results for the year 2020. A copy of the balance sheet and profit and loss statement for the three years ending December 31, 2020 is attached to these minutes. Mr. Schrumm stated that income for 2020 exceeded expenses by approximately \$23 thousand. Total assets, including the value of land held by the CLT, were approximately \$9.5 million, with liquid assets of approximately \$932 thousand. Mr. Schrumm stated that the CPA firm of Budwitz and Meyerjack assisted in the preparation of the CLT's annual IRS Form 990 filing.

Election of Directors

Mr. Stanley stated that Matt Abdifar and Jeff Nelson have been nominated to serve as directors for a three-year term ending March 2024. He noted that directors continuing in office include are Elsa Loehmann, Jim Mertz, and David Schrumm, whose terms expire on March 2023 and John Hilzinger, William Stanley and Susan Stanley, whose terms expire in March 2022.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Messrs. Abdifar and Nelson were unanimously elected to serve for a three-year term ending March 2024.

Election of Officers

Mr. Stanley then presented the slate of nominees for officer positions. On motion duly made and seconded, William Stanley, President; Elsa Loehmann, Vice President; David Schrumm, Treasurer; and Susan Stanley; Secretary were elected as officers for a term ending March, 2022.

Discussion followed concerning the history of the Fenn Road property recently acquired by the Town of Cheshire.

Mr. Stanley thanked members for their patience and participation in the meeting under difficult circumstances. He indicated that he is looking forward to the time when members can meet again in person. There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Stanley, Secretary

Member Attendees March 25, 2021 Annual Meeting

Matt Abdifar
Katie Bateson
Mark Hall
John Hilzinger
Juliette Hilzinger
Robert Kerson
Freddie Kerson
Elsa Loehmann
Anne McNulty
Henry McNulty
Jim Mertz
Margaret Mertz
Jeff Nelson
Breina Schain
David Schrumm
Sally Schrumm
Susan Stanley
William Stanley
Tim Weiland