



Wilton Land Conservation Trust

TRUSTEES

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Robert H. Russell, Jr.
Vice Presidents

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Treasurer

Nancy Faesy
Secretary

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Nicholas F. Lee
David L. Lynch
Frank Mabley
Donald Marquardt
David Michael
Teresa Mucci
George H. Ongley
Thomas M. Sinchak
William A. Ziegler

Anthony P. Grassi
Trustee Emeritus

Wilton Land Conservation Trust Annual Meeting February 15, 2007 8:00 p.m. Old Town Hall

Bruce Beebe, President, called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. and welcomed everyone. He noted that 85 member proxy votes had been submitted.

The Minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting were approved.

Jay Dulberg, Nominating Committee chairman, read the slate of Trustees for election for terms expiring in 2011: David L. Lynch, Donald E. Marquardt, Teresa Mucci, Robert H. Russell, Jr., and (new Trustee) Thomas J. Walker. For a term expiring in 2010, and (new Trustee) James P. Snedeker.

Upon motion made and seconded, the proposed slate was unanimously approved.

Dawn Bennett Ladenheim gave the Treasurer's Report. It was an excellent year with contributions of \$69,681, earned interest and dividends \$8,069, making a revenue total of \$78,861. Expenses totaled \$16,299, yielding a surplus for the year of \$62,562. Assets, which included the book value of the WLCT land (\$584,581), total \$846,001. There were no liabilities.

Bruce mentioned that two Trustees have retired, Jeff Golterman, who will still assist with the web site, and George Lamb. He thanked them for their service.

Bill Ziegler gave the Membership Committee Report, which covers December 1, 2005, to November 30, 2006. There were 452 members. In the current membership campaign, beginning last November, contributions to date total \$66,396, including \$1,686 from matching gift donors. The average gift per member was \$147. This is an increase of ten in the number of members, but a decrease in total contributions. 202 members have not yet renewed for 2007, but there will be follow up letters and telephone calls this spring. Bill thanked Frank Mabley for maintaining the database. He also urged members to encourage friends and neighbors to join with a contribution.

Bruce Beebe gave an update on the 2006 annual report. He mentioned the recent closing for the Offinger land and the change in name from Brandon Crossing to the Bennett Preserve.

Charlie Flynn and Teresa Mucci reported on Schenck's Island. Charlie mentioned that the Board of Selectmen reaffirmed its commitment to the restoration of Schenck's Island to be led by the Trust to 2017. He mentioned the volunteers who had and will in the future contribute their efforts. Teresa described the landscaping work to be done including eliminating invasives, pruning, and river bank stabilization. Larry Weaner, our consultant on Schenck's Island will be giving a talk at the Library on the long-term plan.

David Lynch reported that 60 deer had been taken in Wilton controlled hunts this season, nine from the Belknap and Gregg Preserves. There have been no objections by neighbors and no poaching.

Bruce reported that Tony Grassi will be given a framed photograph in thanks for his extraordinary leadership of the Wilton Land Conservation Trust.

Bruce said George Ongley recommended the three acres at the south end of Schenck's Island be named the "Richard C. Wheeler Preserve" with appropriate signage in memory of a long-serving Trustee. He also recommended the \$1,000 scholarship given annually (usually) to a Wilton High School senior be named the "E. Dan Cappel Award" in recognition of retired Trustee Dan Cappel. The scholarship naming will be announced at the annual high school award ceremony next June.

Nancy Faesy mentioned upcoming events. Gina McCarthy, Commissioner of DEP, will be speaking at the Wilton Library on April 26th at 7:00 p.m. on her "No Child Left Inside" initiative. There will be a Town-wide Cleanup on Saturday, April 28th from 9:00 – 12:00N organized by the Conservation Commission. There will be an Electronic Recycling day on April 14th at the High School. Nancy mentioned the environmental activities at the Wilton Library sponsored by the Betsy and Jesse Fink Foundation. Flyers are available.

Bruce mentioned the press conference Friday, February 16th, in Hartford to announce the "Face of CT Campaign" by Governor Rell who is proposing \$30 million annually in new bonding authorizations for DEP's two open space programs. Materials were available.

Nancy Faesy introduced the guest speaker, Julie Belaga, Co-Chair of the CT League of Conservation Voters, a board member of numerous environmental organizations and a former legislator in CT. Julie gave a history of how she co-founded the CT League of Conservation Voters and its effect on our legislators with the "scorecard". She also mentioned environmental bills coming up in the CT Legislature this session which she urged Land Trust members to support by contacting our legislators: 1. "The Face of CT Campaign". 2. Clean Water Fund 3. Invasive plant bills 4. Registration of ATV's.

Toni Boucher arrived unannounced and spoke passionately about a revived interest in building Super 7. She gave a history of Super 7 and urged the audience to either attend the hearing in Hartford before the Transportation Committee Wednesday, February 21st, or write letters to legislators opposing the project.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

A brief meeting of the Trustees ensued, at which the following officers were unanimously elected:

President – Bruce Beebe
Vice-President – Charles Flynn and Robert Russell
Treasurer – Dawn Ladenheim Bennett
Secretary – Nancy Faesy

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Faesy
Secretary
February 16, 2007