

**Essex Land Trust
Annual Meeting Report
2011**



2011 Annual Meeting

The Essex Land Trust held its 2011 Annual Meeting on April 5th. With approximately 125 in attendance, the occasion marked the Land Trust's 43rd year in operation. The event was held at **Essex Meadows** which provided an outstanding venue for members to meet and mingle after which the formal meeting was held.

After calling the meeting to order, ELT President Bob Nussbaum proceeded with the business at hand.

- Minutes from last year's meeting were approved and a special welcome was in order to the more than 30 active Land Trust members residing at Essex Meadows. Committee reports were then summarized
- **Finance** (Mike Carlucci, Chair) reported revenues of \$76,000 while expenses were held at \$67,000. The \$20,000 cost for the Markham property (now part of Heron Preserve) was funded from current operational funds. Finally, the Land Trust's investment portfolio stood at \$550,000 at the end of the 2010 fiscal year
- **Development** (Peter Prichard, Chair): grants were received from a number of organizations including Essex Savings Bank, Essex Community Fund, Lions, Town of Essex, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. We are already off to a good start in 2011 with grants from the Middlesex County Community Foundation, the Rockfall Foundation, Essex Community Foundation and Essex Savings Bank. Sponsorships in support of Land Trust initiatives have also been received from Essex Savings Bank, Essex Printing, Tower Industries and Murtha Cullina LLP
- **Land Acquisition** (Paul Greenberg, Chair): besides completing the Markham property purchase, contacts have been made with owners of several properties of interest, one offer has been submitted and other feasibility studies are under way
- **Stewardship** (Al Macgregor, Chair): a big vote of thanks to all stewards and volunteers for their continuing hard work on behalf of the Land Trust. Cross Lots has received a lot of attention, i.e., stump removal, wall repair, Bartlett Tree Specialists work, mowing, leaf raking and containment of invasive plants. Participation in Earth Day and International Coastal clean-ups involved scores of volunteers on 10 ELT properties resulting in more than 5 truckloads of refuse removed
- **Programs & Events** (Peggy Tuttle, Thea Putnam, Co-Chairs: with the goal of promoting recreational use of ELT properties to connect people to land and river and promote conservation education, approximately 20 events took place including walk, paddles and lectures/presentations. A number of collaborations with local organizations are taking place (Potapaug Audubon, Essex Garden Club, Essex Historical Society and the town's two libraries)
- **Volunteers** (Nancy Rambeau, Chair): a critical ingredient, volunteers really do make it happen. Over 2,000 hours of volunteer time were recorded during the year covering

clean-ups, hosting programs and providing support for communications and membership

- **Communications** (Jim Denham, Chair): normal responsibilities included publishing 3 editions of *Essex Woods & Waters*, writing and releasing press releases and eblasts to the membership and working with Steve Haines of Haines Design to meet our poster and brochure needs. The website has been updated and now includes more useful information
- **Membership** (Linda Levene, Chair): total membership in 2010 increased over 2009 as did income from dues. Twenty-nine new members joined the Land Trust in 2010 and our roster now includes 117 Conservators for Life. We are increasing our efforts to reach out to families with young children through tailored programs and events
- **Nominations & Policies** (Suzy Burke, Chair): proposed a full term for interim board member Nancy Rambeau; new terms for those expiring [Burke, Levene, Putnam]; reducing current Nussbaum term one year and then starting a new three year term, to provide balance across classes. Reconfirmed the classes of other Board members

Other items presented at the Annual Meeting were:

- Noted the passing away of the following longstanding ELT members: Ray Gastil, Doug Jones, Ken Kells, Alice Powers, and Land Trust Founder Hank Towers
- Paid tribute to Chet Arnold with a video on Chet's ELT career including his significant role in promoting the Falls River Initiative
- Bob Nussbaum presented a brief video regarding the installation of the OspreyCam on a Land Trust property Osprey platform (see related article for more details)

Finally, after adjournment, the Board voted the election of these officers:

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| ▪ Bob Nussbaum | President |
| ▪ Jim Denham | Vice President |
| ▪ Goody LeLash | Secretary |
| ▪ Mike Carlucci | Treasurer |

A special thanks to those who made the meeting a success: Peggy Tuttle & Thea Putnam, chair of our events & programs committee and all of their volunteers, to Barbara Edwards and Carol MacElwee, and to Beth Goodnow and Essex Meadows staff.