



ANNUAL REPORT

LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

2016-17

Dear Friends:

Fifty years ago our Founders had a vision that Lyme need not succumb to the kind of rampant and uncontrolled development that had blighted so many other communities—some close at hand. They hoped that Lyme could retain its quiet, rural, scenic and historical character. They incorporated the Land Trust in 1966 as a means of working toward that end. Our Annual Meeting this year was held on May 26, fifty years to the day after the Land Trust's first Annual Meeting in 1967.

We have, of course, been celebrating all year! Perhaps you came to our town-wide anniversary party held at Grassy Hill Preserve near the iconic Congregational Church at the top of Grassy Hill Road. There was a band, a barbeque, a raffle and a wine and beer tent. A rollicking good time was had by all.

In the report by our Preservation Chair, you will read about our purchase of the beautiful Brockway-Hawthorne property, 82 acres of land just south of Hadlyme Four Corners. We have now created a small parking area and trails that will provide access to the most beautiful features of the preserve.

This year also saw major progress in realizing our goal of ensuring the financial stability of the Land Trust in perpetuity, a critical performance parameter considering that our stewardship obligations for the 100 plus properties we have under management run in perpetuity. We have exceeded our goal of creating an endowment fund of \$1,000,000 (including promised bequests), and have revised our goal upward. We are also working on our goal of adding \$500,000 to our Templeton Brown Acquisition Fund. Please consider participating in this important capital campaign!

The PBS documentary on the Land Trust and, more broadly, conservation in Lyme, aired on CPTV on January 14, and 100 other PBS stations broadcast it nationwide. We hope you saw the polished final version introduced by the actor, Sam Waterston. It reflects the success that the board members, staff and volunteers of the Land Trust, working with the Town, the State and our other conservation partners, have had in realizing the vision of our Founders. I know they would be proud of what has been accomplished over the last fifty years.

Visionaries LLC, the not-for-profit that produced the PBS film, has worked with the Land Trust to create a companion film we call "The Rest of the Story." It contains interviews with a number of people who were important contributors to the Land Trust's success over time as well as footage that could not be included in the original film. You should have received a DVD containing both.

We hope you will read the balance of our report which delves more deeply into our accomplishments last year.

With our thanks,
John Pritchard
President

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, the Lyme Land Trust hosts events to promote awareness of our natural surroundings. We often work in partnership with the Town of Lyme and other groups.

This spring, we provided outdoor adventures through “Curiosity Shop,” a program for students in grades K-5 at the Lyme Consolidated School. Students explored Banningwood Preserve, Clucas Preserve, and the fish ladder at Mt. Archer Road.

Many special events were held to celebrate the Land Trust’s 50th anniversary, including the PBS documentary and the anniversary party that were mentioned in the Director’s Letter. At our 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting in May, we honored retiring First Selectman Ralph Eno for his dedication to conservation and his leadership in the town’s partnership with the Land Trust in preserving open space. On the Fourth of July weekend, an exhibit at the Lyme Public Hall included displays on the history of the Trust and on Lyme’s preserves and trails, the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Watershed, and photographs from the Land Trusts Photo Contest.

our events chair

WENDOLYN HILL

Kid’s Nature Day on July 2 gave children a chance to explore hands-on activities.

Trailblazer walks and tours in Lyme’s preserves were led by Wendolyn Hill. Highlights included a private woodlands tour that illustrated active management to enhance wildlife habitat, and a cruise on the RiverQuest to view the display of migrating swallows. At the Slawson Preserve on Connecticut Trails Day, Lisa Wahle, a biologist who works on young forest habitat restoration, Mark LaCasse, Master Wildlife Conservationist, and Emery Gluck, of CT DEEP explained their collaborative effort to restore early successional habitat.

Creative expression inspired by nature was the theme of other events, including last year’s Fifth Annual Paint-Out Exhibit, co-sponsored by the Lyme Art Association, which featured paintings of the Hamburg Bridge Historic District. The eleventh annual Land Trusts Annual Photo Contest reception was held this past March. The contest is a cooperative effort by the Land Trusts in Lyme and several adjacent towns.

THE LYME LAND TRUST’S communications operations are managed by a team of staff, board members and volunteers, each focusing on a specialized area. This results in a remarkably robust communications program that includes newsletters, social media channels, direct mail, email, and websites.

Email messages provide information on upcoming walks, talks, and other events. Because we carefully manage our email program, our readers pay attention when we do send a message. Our open rate this year is almost double the industry standard for non-profits. To help match messages with the right audiences, Tom Shoemaker uses directed email lists to reach different groups (such as current members, volunteers, etc.).

Print communications are alive and well at the Land Trust. Organized and edited by Mary Guitar, our newsletter is mailed to all Lyme residents three times a year. This publication covers upcoming events, articles about the people who make the Land Trust successful, and in-depth reports of conservation issues. The Annual Report, mailed to members once a year, includes committee and financial reports and gives us a chance to thank our generous donors and sponsors.

Our website, www.lymelandtrust.org, newly redesigned and streamlined by former Environmental Director Lisa

our communications team

MARY GUITAR, NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Niccolai, enhances use on mobile devices and desktop computers. Wendolyn Hill manages and updates content regarding activities, news, membership and trails.

The Tour de Lyme web site, www.tourdelyme.org, also redesigned last year, continues to be popular. Many people used the site to register to ride and to volunteer for, or donate to the 2017 Tour de Lyme.

Two Facebook pages, including a separate one for the Tour de Lyme, are regularly updated by Wendolyn Hill, Environmental Director Sue Cope, Jil Nelson and Humphrey Tyler. Our main Facebook page has expanded to more than 782 followers in June 2017. Most posts reach 400 or more, and one last year reached almost 6,000.

The Tour de Lyme Facebook page, with 716 followers, spreads the word about upcoming events and news, and is a useful way to share information of common interest. The Land Trust also maintains a Twitter account for Tour de Lyme (@tourdeplyme), managed by Jil Nelson, that has 347 followers.

The Land Trust has an Instagram handle (@lymelandtrust) managed by Sue Cope, with more than 300 followers. It’s a great outlet for sharing visual images of what it’s like out in the field, teaching about fascinating flora and fauna, and socializing with local businesses and like-minded friends.

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE, with the help of more than 30 volunteers, monitors all 103 Land Trust properties and conservation easements and maintains over 35 miles of trails. Volunteer stewards walk the properties and file reports on our online database. The strong support of volunteers also makes it possible to keep trails clear and well-marked.

Working with the Town of Lyme, The Nature Conservancy, and many volunteers, the Land Trust continued to develop new preserves and upgrade and add new trails. The Ravine Trail was improved by moving the entrance to a more pedestrian-safe location on Joshuatown Road, across the street from the Selden Creek Preserve parking lot. A new section of the red trail there, combined with the new yellow trail, creates a moderately easy loop, and a new blue trail off the yellow trail offers a fairly easy 0.6-mile round-trip to a breathtaking overlook. The remaining red trail was cleared and re-blazed. At Chestnut Hill Preserve, a yellow trail was blazed to offer hikers more options, and the orange trail was cleared and re-blazed.

The Land Trust's newest property, the 82-acre Brockway-Hawthorne Preserve, has been developed for public access. Volunteers created a trail system that traverses its diverse and beautiful terrain and connects to the existing Ravine Trail and Selden Creek Preserve network. Volunteers from Dominion built three new bridges. An off-street parking area has been constructed and trail maps are being prepared.

Committed to building and maintaining strong relationships in the community, we worked with the Lyme Consolidated School and the PTO to host four outdoor

adventures for the after-school program in the Banningwood and Clucas Preserves, and at the Moulson Pond fish ladder. Wendolyn Hill organized several hikes during the year, including at the Lyme Corner Trails, Pleasant Valley, Mount Archer/Eno, Banningwood, Chestnut Hill, Hartman and Patrell Preserves. Liz Robinson from The Nature Conservancy led a walk on the Ravine Trail and the new trails in the Selden Creek Preserve.

To steward the land and create a variety of habitats for wildlife, the Land Trust actively manages its properties. Private landowners, the Land Trust and the State have agreed to harvest mature trees on adjoining properties over an extended period in order to create an environment suitable for species, such as the endangered New England Cottontail, that depend upon young forest. It is also beneficial to more than 50 species of greatest conservation importance, including ruffed grouse, American woodcock, wood turtle, and blue-spotted salamander.

The Town of Lyme administers the hunting program, supported by the Land Trust. Our partnerships with the town and The Nature Conservancy coordinate activities on all of our properties.

Working with the town, the Land Trust developed an overall map of the Town of Lyme which shows all properties with free public access, including all the trails. New maps and brochures of the Beebe Preserve and Chestnut Hill Preserve are now also available. Maps are available on our web page, lymelandtrust.org, at the Lyme Town Hall, and the Lyme Public Library.

our stewardship chair

DON GERBER

WE HAD A WONDERFUL 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR, thanks to our members, grantors, volunteers, and the board.

Our 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign goal was \$1,500,000 to \$500,000 for Preservation and \$1,000,000 through planned gifts for Endowment. Pledges and contributions exceeded both goals. Preservation now stands at \$520,000 and Endowment at \$1,200,000.

The Preservation goal included funding for the purchase of the Brockway-Hawthorne Preserve which closed on February 17, 2017. The funding plan was built from a grass-roots community effort, which included both a significant lead pledge and a challenge grant. Installment contributions were offered to match the property's purchase installment payments. Over 70 parties pledged or donated funds for the purchase. We are delighted that 27 of them are new Land

Trust members, including nine President's Circle members.

The Lyme Land Trust Board is committed to building a meaningful Endowment Fund. While paying as you go has worked well through your support, we are committed to building resources for future generations to sustain our properties in perpetuity. To meet our Anniversary goal, pledges were structured around planned gifts—no cash today, payment later from estates. The \$1,200,000 in pledges included will and IRA/401K beneficiary designations, and charitable gift annuity purchases.

We continue to encourage all members to review their estate plans and to consider including the Lyme Land Trust in those plans. In this way, you'll help preserve in perpetuity our woodlands, vital watersheds, and wildlife, aquatic, and bird habitats.

our philanthropy chair

MILT WALTERS

OVER THE PAST YEAR THE LAND TRUST has added three properties to the conservation rolls. One was an anonymous gift of nearly 11 wooded acres in close proximity to protected parcels off Joshuatown Road. Another was a gift of a 40-acre conservation easement by the Griffin family near the Grassy Hill Church, adjacent to Nehantic State Forest and other protected lands.

The third was a Land Trust purchase of 82.5 acres in Hadlyme from Bill and Anna Hawthorne. With its connection to other open space parcels and trails, this property is one of the building blocks in a nearly 1,000-acre forested block running from Brush Hill Road to Selden Neck and the Connecticut River. Funding came from a grant by the state and another from the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut. More importantly, over 50 Lyme residents donated a total of over \$225,000. The property had been in the Hawthorne and Brockway families for many generations, and Bill and Anna wished to see it protected in perpetuity as a legacy that would benefit future generations. A bargain sale was negotiated, meaning that the sale price was less than the appraised value, the difference between the two becoming a charitable contribution.

In fact, all three of these conservation transactions contained a charitable component, as each family was

donating value to the Lyme Land Trust, a non-profit organization.

These properties were brought to our attention by owners wishing to see the conservation value of their land protected. In almost all cases such as these, much time and deliberation is needed as families sort through the various protection strategies that will have permanent implications for future generations. It is the responsibility of the Lyme Land Trust to evaluate the merits of each property and assist the potential donor or seller with information about the different options available to them.

Only when a landowner is convinced that working with the trust is in their family's and the land's best interests can we formulate the desired outcome that serves all parties involved. These decisions cannot be rushed; sometimes many years go by before the fate of a particular property is decided.

In all cases, the Lyme Land Trust depends on the caring and commitment of landowners when it comes to land protection. It is the sharing of these goals that makes the relationship between the community and the Land Trust so vital. With this in mind, we are always available to answer questions and guide prospective landowners interested in protecting their family lands for future generations.

our preservation chair

ANTHONY IRVING



THIS PAST YEAR WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL. Compared to the same period last year, Operating Revenues increased 41% while Operating Expenses had a modest increase of 7.7%. We have been able to increase our revenues through fundraising events such as Tour de Lyme (8% increase) and, through more effective communications, we increased the revenue raised through our annual membership program by 20%. Over the years, our accounting obligations have grown. The IRS requires detailed reporting from non-profits via the 990 Form, and in those years when we are the grateful recipients of a State of Connecticut grant to buy property, we usually move into an area requiring an audit.

We run a cost-conscious operation, but we have had

to face inevitable cost increases as our responsibilities have grown. Insurance costs are one good example, IT costs are another. We depend heavily on various computer programs to carry out our mission, including accounting, mapping using GPS, maintaining databases of donors, tracking online registration and donations, and digitizing and preserving valuable records for the more than 100 properties and easements we manage.

our treasurer

GEORGE LOMBARDINO

Thank you, Directors, Members and Volunteers who have worked together for 50 years to make our Land Trust so very successful and so admired by our peers.

— For the Treasurer by George Moore

Statement of Financial Position

as of June 30, 2017

ASSETS	(\$ in 000s)
Assets	
Cash & Equivalents	\$ 827.3
Accounts Receivable	260.0
Long-term Investments	664.4
Conservation Land	5,519.3
Other Assets	<u>1.1</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 7,272.1</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	15.0
Long-term Debt	<u>370.0</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 385.0</u>
Equity	
Retained Earnings	5,410.5
Fund Balances	
General Fund	279.7
Endowment Fund	339.4
H. Templeton Brown Acquisition Fund	356.2
Rufus Barringer Stewardship Fund	274.9
Other Donor-restricted Funds	<u>226.4</u>
Total Equity	<u>\$ 6,887.1</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>\$ 7,272.1</u>

Statement of Income

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Operating Revenues	
Membership Dues	\$ 83.8
Donations	208.2
Tour de Lyme	105.8
Other Revenues	<u>119.0</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>\$ 516.8</u>
Operating Expenses	
Compensation	\$ 119.6
G & A	14.5
Communications & Events	76.5
Other Operations	144.1
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>19.8</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 374.5</u>
Other Income/Deductions	<u>38.6</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ 181.0</u>
Land Acquisition & Endowment Capital	<u>706.7</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>\$ 887.6</u>

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Over \$10,000

Anonymous (2)
Baxter, Matthew
Hargraves, John &
Newcomb, Nancy
Pritchard, John & Lee
Tyler, Humphrey & Susan
Walters, Milton & Caroline

\$2,500 - \$9,999

Duncan, James & Laura
Enders, Anthony & Elizabeth
Fetter, Trevor & Melissa
Gagliardi, Gerald & Deborah
Gahagan, Frederick & Mary Lou
Hessel, Susan & Dahle, Karen
Hulseberg, Daniel & Kiker, John
Johnston, Mark & Sarah
Melville, Gregory & Fox, Susan
Millerbernd, Donald
Mulligan, Sandy
Patterson, Michael & Elena
Richardson, Michael & Faye
Roosevelt, Christopher duP
& Rosalind
Saxton, Dr. Craig & Pietrina
Schwartz, James & Sarah
Thompson, Geoffrey & Claudia

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Aidinoff, Ellen
Barringer, Charlotte P
Beglin, Brian & Cynthia
Brewer, John & Margaret
Brown, Suzanne
Butler, Jonathan & Deborah
Cantner, Matthew & Shaleighne
Clements, Nicholas & Elizabeth
Daitch, Peter
Davidson, Patricia
Dowling, Vincent
Duran, Judith
Embree, Jeb & Dianne
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Fay, John & Isleib, Jonathan
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Meya, Wilhelm
Miller, James & Stacey, Regan
Millhiser, Timothy
Morgan, Elizabeth
Mummert, Drs Earl & Margaret
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Pritchard, Christopher & Sally
Scheel, Robert & Anne
Shea, James & Kristen
Standart, Joe & Clinton
Stern, Robert
Town of Lyme
Volles, Warren & Lori
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Willauer, George & Cynthia
Williams, Nancy Young

\$500 - \$999

Angier, Mark & Elizabeth
Ashley, Frances
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Birch, Susan Raible & Michael
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Dahlke, Gerald
Deane, Curtis &
Shoemaker, Tom
Dodge, Bradley
Griffin, John & Claire
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Karter, Elizabeth
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Leonardo, Jarrod & Stacey
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McCall, Alison & Eliel, Peter
Milardo, Ronald
Nelson, Jil

Pedrick, James & Jacquelyn
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Pryor, John
Robertson, Sarah
Schroeder, Mary &
Spencer, Cathy
Seelig, Richard & Christine
Shea, John
Stanton, Andrea
Talcott, Whitney
Wardlaw, Dr Stephen & Lynne
White, Peter & Kristina
Williams, Sydney & Beatriz
Wing, Thomas & Andrea
Woody, Melvin

\$250 - \$499

Angers, Thomas E &
Van Daff, Tim
Ballek, Rowland & Nancy
Ballek, Susan
Beaudette, Michael & Edna
Bingham, David
Brown, Maren &
Morrison, Patricia
Butler, Chris
Carpiniello, William
Chapman, Drew
Clark, Ronald & Jane
Comaskey, Patrick &
Spurling, Allyson
Critchett, Donald & Jane
Crosby, Frederick & Rebecca
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Domenie, Douglas & Patrice
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Kyder, Wayne & Sarah
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Rosen, Martin
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Rosseau, Richard & Gail
Rosseau, Richard & Shirley
Sauer, Claire
Schmid, Nina
Standish, Robert & Mildred
Su, Chih-Wu
Taylor, Anne Alexis Cote
Watt, Peter N & Cattie, Gerard
Welch, Susan
Wieschenberg, Peter
Wilkins, Marilyn
Worcester, Rick & Heidi

\$100 - \$249

Anonymous (3)
Abram, Joshua & Gildea, Scott
Ahnell, Paul & Jane
Amacher, David & Charlene
Anderson, Bruce & Leslie
Andreas, Robert & Deborah
Aubrey, Sally
Balavender, Henry & Gail
Bergan, Nathaniel
Bisceglia, David & Teresa
Bischoff, Thomas & Terry
Blackwell, Elmer &
Bennett, Stefanie
Bladen, Ashby & Ginger
Block, John & Sherry
Bombacci, Edward
Brainerd, Wendy
Braunfield, Robert
Brennan, Andrew & Adrienne
Brown, Kenneth & Karen
Burnham, Rika
Buttrick, Harold & Ann
Catlett, John & Athana
Clark, Herbert & Sharon
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Coney, Joseph & Peres, Andrea

\$100-\$249 continued

Cook, Barbara Bell & David
Crowther, Beverly
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Dwyer, Michael
East, Andrew & Dawn
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Harris, Dr Randall & Patricia
Hassett, Carol
Heym, James & Wilkinson, Lynn
Hilles, Frederick & Osgood, Jane
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House, George & Linda
Hunt, Faulkner & Anne
Improte, Barry & Linda
Izzo, Alfred & Donahue, Sandra
Jarrabeck, Frank
Jenkins, Gary & Ehlen, Jerry
Johnson, Gilead & Maureen
Kaslow, Andrew & Diane
Klarnet, Katy & King, Nick
Krall, Phillip
Lally, Carolyn
Lawlor, Elizabeth
Lewis, Emily
Lewis, Leslie
Lewis, Steven & Denise
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Limon, Patricia
Linares, Art

Littlefield, David &
Desillier, Elene
Littlefield, Prescott & Anne
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Lombardo, Stephanie
Long, Barbara &
Walters, Roxann
Lord, Pauline & Harlow, David
Lovejoy, Thomas &
Brechneff, Christian
Lynch, Eugene & Louise
Macbeth, Thomas &
Griffin, Maureen
MacGregor, Ian
Marburg, Charles & Louise
Martin, Frederick & Marie
Matthews, Mary
Mattson, Steven & Maddy
Maus, Michael & Ellen
McCawley, Drs Christopher
& Susan
Mele, Michael
Miller, Gregory & Motyka, Joan
Miller, Thomas & Wendy
Molyneux, Richard
Monroe, Julian & Margaret
Moore, George & Rosemary
Nagourney, Herbert &
Bramson, Ann
Platt, Frederick & Christine
Poulin, Douglas & Dillon, Tara
Rennhard, Dr Hans
Resnikoff, Henry &
Nielsen, Daphne
Rich, Ann
Rich, Norman
Riches, Wendy
Robillard, Robert &
Van Ness, Addison
Rosenshine, Allen & Susan
Rowe, Jeffery & Kathy
Saltzman, Joel & Marcy
Scaros, Lee & Olivia
Schaaf, Judy
Shine, Pamela
Slater, Brian & Janet
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Smith, Robert
Snarski, Richard
Taisey, Robert D
Tennant, Foster &
Goodall, Susan

Tiffany, Jennifer &
Hurtle William
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2017 TOUR DE LYME

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Susan Tiffany
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Milton Walters
Kristina White
Melvin Woody, *Secretary*

George Moore, *Executive Director*
Sue Cope, *Environmental Director*

Mission Statement

To conserve in perpetuity for the public benefit Lyme's natural, scenic and historic land and water resources by: acquiring and stewarding real properties and conservation easements; supporting open space acquisition by third parties; facilitating scientific study and management of the resources; and educating the community regarding the benefits of conservation.



LONG RANGE PLAN

- Conserve land of environmental, cultural or historical importance
- Carry out work of the Land Trust in a fiscally responsible manner
- Raise public awareness of the natural resources, history, lands and the benefits of the Land Trust's activities
- Expand our community relations activities
- Enhance our systematic stewardship program