



THE HINGHAM LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

2016 Annual Report & Newsletter

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The Lehner Land – A Collaboration for Preservation KATHY REARDON

On two Sundays in April 2016, hundreds of Hingham residents gathered on South Pleasant Street to tour 50 acres of woods, fields and streams purchased by Hans Lehner in the 1920's. These tours, sponsored and publicized by the Hingham Land Conservation Trust with the support of the Trust for Public Land and the Land Trust Alliance, were the culmination of a collaboration between the Lehner Family and the Town to preserve the property. Days later, Town Meeting overwhelmingly voted in favor of the most valuable land conservation project since the town adopted the Community Preservation Act. (Note: The purchase is scheduled to close by year-end, and the property should open to the public in 2017.)

For land preservationists, it is axiomatic that land protection is most likely to succeed when property owners actively desire it and negotiations address the needs of all parties. Here, the family were true partners; allowing the Town time to build support for the project and seek additional State assistance for the purchase. Most important, the Lehner family agreed to accept a price significantly below their own appraisal to enable conservation of the entire parcel.



Brigitte Kingsbury (daughter of Philip and Monique Lehner) has fond memories of cousins who grew up roaming these fields, hills and streams together. She recalls that they named the series of open hills beyond Potter's Field, where they sledged and biked, "Red, White and Blue". They sat on tractors plowing the fields behind the orchard and played around Glad Tidings Rock. In short, they made connections to the land that lead to the desire for preservation.

The acquisition of the Lehner property, along with 50 adjoining acres already preserved by HLCT and the Hingham Conservation Commission, creates 100 acres of contiguous wildlife and watershed protection and a varied trails area with access from both Main and South Pleasant Streets. HLCT congratulates all the contributors to this marvelous collaboration and particularly thanks Charlie Berry and the Open Space Committee for their vision and dedication to preserving this extraordinary landscape. 

The 2010 edition of the "Parklands for the Public" map is available at the library, the Conservation Commission and Town Clerk's offices, and by mail to members who request it on their HLCT donation envelope. Copies are on display in the Hingham Public Schools libraries and classrooms.



It's been a busy year for the Board, highlighted by the opportunity to be involved with the Town's acquisition of the Lehner property (see related story). We've also welcomed two new board members, and thanked two long-standing members as they stepped off the board.

At the HLCT Annual Meeting in the spring we paid a fond farewell to our former President and versatile Trustee, Charles "Corky" Willse. In his nine years with us, Corky was truly a man of all trades and seasons; photographing our events, organizing interesting walks, writing colorful articles for our newsletter and cheering us with his hearty laugh. Corky, we wish you the best in your new town of Ipswich.

We also bid farewell to Tony Kiernan, who served on the Board since 2010.



Former Board President Charles "Corky" Willse

Tony was an active member of the Board, often hosting meetings, joining regularly for our walks, manning the

Taste of Hingham table and acting as the Board's treasurer.

The Board is pleased by the addition of two new members this year, Tom Bright and Eileen McIntyre, who bring their enthusiasm and distinct talents to the Board. Welcome Tom and Eileen!

At the HLCT Annual Meeting, our featured speaker, John Galluzzo, provided a whirlwind tour of Hingham's open space history, including the geologic, economic, military and cultural influences that have led to Hingham's rich land heritage. In addition, Loni Fournier, Hingham's new Senior Planner and Conservation Officer, outlined Hingham's Trail Planning project; and briefed us on the proposal (later approved by the Town) to purchase the Lehner property and on an update to Hingham's Open Space Plan.



Trustee News



New Trustees Eileen McIntyre and Tom Bright

Tom Bright, who joined the HLCT board in July and serves as its new treasurer, grew up in West Hingham in the 1950's and '60's. After college, he worked in Washington as a Capitol Hill aide for several years before returning to Hingham in 1979 to join his family's business, Hitchcock Shoes, Inc., of which he has been

president since 1998. A past trustee of Derby Academy, he served on the town's 375th Anniversary Committee and has been a member of the New North Church parish committee for more than 30 years.

Eileen McIntyre, who also joined the HLCT board in July, moved to Hingham from NYC in 2000. She and her husband, journalist and author Roy Harris, are now "empty nesters" in the World's End neighborhood. Before retiring in 2015 after a long career in advertising and corporate communications, Eileen was VP Investor Relations for Cubist Pharmaceuticals in Lexington. A former Board president of the South Shore's Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, Eileen is now involved in communications projects for the League of Women Voters of Hingham and the Hingham Historical Society.



Trails Plan Update

The Hingham Comprehensive Trails Plan was finalized late last year and is posted on the Hingham Conservation Commission and Comprehensive Trails Plan Committee websites. (HLCT Board member Don Kidston served on the 17-member committee.) The Community Planning Department is moving forward with some of the recommendations in the plan:

- Twenty-nine kiosks for 12 properties were purchased with CPC funds. Installation will start this fall.
- Trail-blazing tools and supplies, also CPC-funded, will be ordered soon.

The Community Planning Department has requested additional CPC funds for the design of an improved trail connection between the Bouve Conservation Area and the Hingham Shipyard, and for maintenance throughout the trail network.



On a crystalline September Sunday, a group of HLCT supporters were treated to an exploration of Whortleberry Hollow, a 13-acre HLCT property donated by Suvia Whittemore in memory of her late husband Justice Arthur Whittemore. Lois Levine graciously allowed event access through her Gardner Street property, the former Whittemore home.



Natural resource specialist Steve Ivas led an exploration of Whortleberry Hollow in September.

Our guide, Steve Ivas, a wetland and natural resource specialist, demonstrated that this small reservation is a microcosm of varied plant communities and geological features. The primary path surrounds the old kettle hole (over 40 feet below nearby Cushing Street) formed when earth settled around a huge block of ice that later melted as the glacier receded. Here, Steve pointed out a variety of plants and trees whose habitats range from full wetland (wet all year) to borderline wetland and damp slopes: spice-bush, royal fern, cinnamon fern, sweet pepper bush, red maple, witch-hazel, wild sarsaparilla and sassafras.

Surrounding the hollow are eskers, gravel deposits also left by the receding glacier, upon whose drier banks we saw dominant clusters of American Beech which exude allelochemicals that suppress competing vegetation. Running through the property is a “gaining stream”, taking ground water and carrying it to Plymouth River, Cushing Pond, Fulling Brook and ultimately to the Weir River.

We hope you will find an hour or so to enjoy Whortleberry Hollow. Please park on the west side of Cushing Street, cross carefully and enter through the park’s fenced walkway.

Recalling Suvia Whittemore

Suvia Whittemore was one of the “wonderful, generous people” who came together as founding trustees of the Hingham Land Conservation Trust more than 40 years ago, recalls her old friend Sally Goodrich, a fellow founding HLCT trustee. “Suvia was always interested in open space,” Sally said in a recent conversation, and wanted her gift to the town (of the 13-acre tract known as “Whortleberry Hollow”, donated in memory of her late husband) to serve as an example of how estate planning can include preserving wetlands and open space. A graduate of Smith College and a former national president of the League of Women Voters, Suvia was “a great addition to our ‘blue ribbon’ HLCT board” Sally said. Suvia was “a big reader, an intellectual . . .” traits she passed along to her three children. She was also “a private person who loved spending quiet time in her historic home on Gardner Street, with its bee-hive oven and old fireplace.”

During the “blitz” of WWII, Suvia, her husband Arthur (who as a young lieutenant in the 168th Infantry Regiment during WWI was twice wounded in action), and their children welcomed to their Hingham home two English children evacuated from Great Britain. Arthur, a trial lawyer and later a judge, was moderator of Hingham Town Meeting for fifteen years, until his 1955 appointment to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, on which he served until his death in 1969.

Sally stayed in touch with Suvia when she left Hingham to move into a retirement home in Northampton years ago. Suvia died in 1998, shortly after her 100th birthday.

– Eileen McIntyre



Philip O. Swanson Scholarship

JOE BIERWIRTH

Congratulations to Erin Lynch, our 2016 Philip O. Swanson Scholarship recipient. Erin is a May 2016 graduate of Hingham High School, where she was active in environmental issues and a member of the Green team. She now studies engineering at Union College in Schenectady, NY. Erin loves the outdoors and began her fall semester canoeing, hiking and camping in the nearby Adirondacks. She looks forward to summiting multiple peaks over her 4 years in college. Erin thanks the HLCT for the support and extends her appreciation for the work done by the HLCT in helping to preserve the natural beauty of Hingham. Join us in wishing Erin much success in her college career.



Erin Lynch

Why Join the Hingham Land Conservation Trust?

All contributions to HLCT are tax-deductible, including land and conservation easements. Your gifts contribute to the quality of life in Hingham now and for generations to come.

The HLCT conserves land to protect our water supply, wildlife habitats and freshwater ponds and streams, while preserving passive recreational uses. Your gifts fund mowing to preserve open meadows, surveys to define property boundaries and other essential organizational needs. Presently we own 65 acres and hold conservation restrictions on 40 acres in the town of Hingham.

The Trustees of the Hingham Land Conservation Trust invite your membership, participation and comments. Mail in the enclosed envelope or write to:

Hingham Land Conservation Trust
PO Box 10
Hingham, MA 02043

For information, call (781) 749-0162 or go to www.hinghamlandtrust.org

Board of Trustees

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Printed on recycled paper
Newsletter design by Carol O'Neill

2015 Financial Summary

Income	\$ 11,447
Expenses	6,186
Net Income.....	5,261
Cash Assets.....	\$158,863



HLCT Event Snapshots



ABOVE AND LEFT: The 2015 Mildred Cushing Woods Walk. Our knowledgeable and entertaining guide, John Galluzzo, of the South Shore Natural Science Center, revealed a treasure of the October forest in this region: The Hen of the Woods edible mushroom. This mushroom can be quite large (50-pound specimens have been found), and this species is almost exclusively found on fallen oak trees. John also taught us how to estimate the age of small pine trees. White pine trees grow a new set of evenly spaced branches every year. We also learned that a smallish tree could be quite old if sheltered in the canopy by more dominant trees.

RIGHT: Jacob's Meadow Clean-up.

On Saturday, June 18th, volunteers gathered to clear branches and brush from the trails and mowed paths through the meadows of Jacobs Meadow. Helping to make the walk through the open space more pleasant were volunteers Caroline Gibson, Jay and Karen Sadlon, and HLCT Trustees Tom Bright, Nick Sowles, Skip Hull and Don Kidston. Jacobs Meadow, located behind the Wilder Hall at 666 Main Street, offers a pleasant walk through woods and fields, including views of Glad Tidings Rock. John Jacob was ambushed and slain near Glad Tidings by Native Americans on April 19, 1676. He was the only Hingham colonial slain by Native Americans during King Phillip's War.

