



THE HINGHAM LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

## 2018 Annual Report & Newsletter

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### Hingham Scouts engaged in open space projects around town

With leadership from Rick Rohleder, representing the HLCT board, and in collaboration with Loni Fournier, Senior Planner, Hingham Conservation Department, and Hingham's Scouting Groups, multiple trail projects to improve Hingham's conservation properties are underway this fall.

#### MORE-BREWER PARK (HCC\* PROPERTY) – TREE INVENTORY PROJECT

**Girl Scout** Cadette Troop #75399, under the direction of Scout Leader Jeannie Ingram, started the tree I.D. project at More-Brewer Park in May. The Park features a variety of trees thanks to Francis Willard Brewer, the self-appointed tree warden of Hingham who planted trees after he acquired the property in the late 1800s. The troop began by looking for trees that were first numbered years ago by the Hingham Garden Club. (The numbered tags, which have deteriorated over time, provide the key to tree descriptions provided to park visitors.) This inventory work was one-third complete when the cadettes returned to the park to resume work early this fall. Overgrowth of brush in the park due to the rains we've had this year has made this a somewhat challenging project. As they find the numbered trees, scout leaders are wrapping in general discussion of the different trees represented. The Cadette Troop plans to get a few more field sessions in before the weather turns and then, over the winter, will work on crafting the replacement tags for placement on the trees in the spring while at the same time updating the park trail map and kiosk. \* HCC=Hingham Conservation Commission

#### WHORTLEBERRY HOLLOW (HLCT PROPERTY) – BENCH AND BOARDWALK PROJECTS



Trent Hesselman, a **Boy Scout** in Hingham's Troop 1, is undertaking the replacement of 48 feet of deteriorated boardwalk through a low-lying area of Whortleberry Hollow. He is advancing the work as an Eagle Scout project with guidance from Troop 1 Scoutmaster Mark Murphy. During the fall Trent is going through the process for getting approval for the work as an Eagle project from Boy Scout Officials. During the summer HLCT with assistance from the Boy Scouts got Conservation Commission approval for the project. With the help and generosity of home improvement Contractor Benjamin Burnham, a building permit was issued on October 12th. Nick Sowles, HLCT steward of Whortleberry Hollow and fellow HLCT board member Don Kidston are assisting with project coordination. The boardwalk has been designed to minimize impact on wetlands, facilitate accessibility and ease of construction. Once Troop 1 and district officials have approved the work as an Eagle Scout project Trent will acquire the materials needed for the project, assemble a scout work crew and build the boardwalk on site. Weather permitting, the construction and installation of the boardwalk could take place by mid-December.

The Boy Scouts of Troop 1 also plan to replace three deteriorated wooden benches in Whortleberry Hollow. The benches will be designed to comply with existing design standards including the Americans with Disabilities Act Architectural Guidelines (ADAAG). Evan Lamlein, of Troop 1, plans to replace the benches as an Eagle Scout project and complete the work in the Spring of 2019.

#### WHORTLEBERRY HOLLOW (HLCT PROPERTY) – LOOP TRAIL BLAZING PROJECT

**Cub Scout** Pack 41 is undertaking trail clearing to form a loop around the "hollow" at Whortleberry Hollow. Currently existing trails circle three sides of the hollow. Neil Deininger of Cub Scout Pack 41 met with HLCT board members Nick Sowles and Don Kidston in mid-June to review the project and mark the trail alignment with tape. The plan calls for clearing a trail near the edge of the hollow to complete the loop. The work consists of clearing the ground and trimming brush and tree branches to create a clear 3 foot-wide, 7 foot-high path, following the trail clearing guidance included in Hingham's Comprehensive Trail Plan. The Cub Scouts are planning to complete the trail clearing in late fall, as weather permits. 



2018 WAS ANOTHER BUSY YEAR FOR THE HLCT.

- Shortly after you received our 2017 newsletter last fall, we invited members to join us for a reception, where we marked the 45th anniversary of the Hingham Land Conservation Trust and unveiled the just-updated sixth edition of our popular “Parklands for the Public Map”, dedicated to long-time HLCT Board member Kathy Reardon.
- In 2018, members of the HLCT board continued working closely with the Town to implement conservation restrictions for the 13 parcels that the Town has purchased through the Community Preservation Act. To date, CRs have been finalized for four parcels, including the 50-acre Lehner Conservation Area. The adoption of these CRs, and the naming of the HLCT as grantee, preserves open space for protection of flood plain, farm or forest land, or wildlife habitat.
- This year the HLCT board, in collaboration with the Hingham Conservation Department, also has deepened and broadened our relationship with the Hingham scouting community. In addition to the periodic property clean-ups for which the Scouts have provided vital and enthusiastic assistance, a list of potential Scout projects on HLCT and town-owned properties was developed that includes improvements and maintenance projects such as trail blazing and marking. As

described in this newsletter’s lead story, multiple projects involving Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts are now in process.

- We were happy to see many of you on our Spring Walk in the parkland at Aaron River Reservoir and our Fall boating excursion/walk on Peddocks Island.
- On a more somber note, Hingham lost a founding HLCT board member in January. Willis (Will) Ertman devoted years of service to the HLCT and conservation efforts in Hingham and served the Town in many other ways. We note his passing in sadness and with gratitude.

Continued thanks to our membership and those that keep showing a keen interest and support for open space and conservation in Hingham. Thanks also to our hard-working board, including those who serve as property stewards for HLCT-owned parkland: Don Kidston (Eel River Woods), Rick Rohleder (Jacob’s Meadow), and Nick Sowles (Whortleberry Hollow.)

2019 is shaping up to be another busy year for the HLCT and the board looks forward to your support as we continue to build on the strong foundation established in 1972 by founding trustees Helen Burns, Stuart DeBard, Will Ertman, Sally Goodrich, Frank Gregg, Lou Niles, Phil Swanson, and Suvia Whittemore.



Trustee News

WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

**Art Collins** works in Clinical Development for Cambridge based Biogen, Inc. and served for many years as a coach and board member for Hingham Youth Soccer, including two years as President. Art has lived in Hingham with his wife, Kelley, and their two children since 2003.

Art has always been a lover of the outdoors and interested in conservation. He spends as much time as possible enjoying Hingham’s beauty while running, walking, skiing, snowshoeing, and kayaking. Hingham’s parks and open spaces are what attracted Art to Hingham. By serving on the HLCT, Art looks forward to preserving its legacy so that others may continue to have the same opportunities to enjoy nature that he has had.

**Zak Mertz** is the Director of the Cape Wildlife Center in Barnstable, MA and the Assistant Director of New England Wildlife Center in Weymouth, MA. He has worked in the field of wildlife care and conservation for the past seven years and is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Zak holds a Master of Science from UMASS Boston with a concentration in both physical and socio-hydrology.

Zak grew up in Hingham and Hull and has spent his life enjoying the open spaces and woodlands of the South Shore. He can often be seen hiking in Wompatuck, jogging in Bare Cove Park, or walking his dog Ziggy at Stodder’s Neck. By serving on the HLCT board, Zak hopes to combine his love of nature and knowledge of the natural sciences to help protect and preserve some of Hingham’s most valuable habitats and landscapes.



Philip O. Swanson Scholarship

Congratulations to Alex Diedrich, our 2018 Philip O. Swanson Scholarship recipient. Hingham High principal Rick Swanson describes Alex as a student “who has developed an ever-growing enthusiasm for sustainability throughout his high school career.” Rick

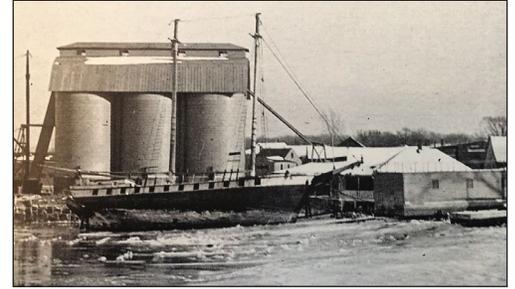


continued, “Since joining the award-winning HHS Green Team at the end of his sophomore year, Alex has contributed immensely to our school’s environmental initiatives. The composting program at HHS (which has become a model for others throughout the region) is particularly indebted to him.” This year, MassRecycles gave HHS its top award in the K-12 School category. That honor was achieved through the hard work and vision of students like Alex. Alex has told us that he plans to extend his commitment to sustainability in the future, both at Union College and beyond.



## Annual Meeting Presentation: Evolution of Harborfront Land Use

This image of an early 20th century Hingham Harbor coal wharf, with three siloes, was just one of the surprises revealed by the April 5th HLCT annual meeting presentation “Evolution of Hingham Harborfront Into a Parkland, Boating and Recreation Area.” Slides researched and prepared by HLCT board member Eileen McIntyre featured historic maps, illustrations and photographs tracking almost four centuries of evolving land use on the banks of the inner harbor, and along Summer and Otis Streets. Speakers and panelists for the enlightening presentation and discussion at Hingham Public Library included: Andrea Young, Administrator, Hingham Historical Commission and Hingham Historic Districts Commission; Bill Reardon, Chair, Harbor Development Committee; Alan Perrault, Chair, Bathing Beach Trustees; and Nancy Clapp Kerber, President, Board of Trustees, Hingham Maritime Center. A link to a recording of this presentation is available at [www.hinghamlandtrust.org](http://www.hinghamlandtrust.org) 



## Remembering Willis Ertman

Willis Ertman, a founding board member of the Hingham Land Conservation Trust, was 90 when he died in January. The example of his life gives us much to emulate. Willis, known to many as Will, was a lifelong learner, with a strong interest in plants and travel. As Jeff Ertman related at his dad’s service, “Maps and atlases were regularly broken out at the dinner table, as a curiosity needed to be satisfied.” In a conversation this spring, HLCT founding board chair Sally Goodrich told us that she valued Will for his lawyerly mind and reliability in the early, formative years of the Trust. Long-time HLCT board chair Kathy Reardon shared appreciation for Will’s loyal support of the HLCT and land conservation over many years—even after he stepped off the board. She recalled he had great interest in ways to connect conservation lands, something the HLCT board today actively pursues. The HLCT will be installing and dedicating a bench in honor of Willis Ertman at a time and location to be announced. 



Will Ertman (RIGHT) at HLCT 40th anniversary event in 2012. Also shown Sally Goodrich (LEFT) and Kathy Reardon (CENTER)

### DID YOU KNOW?

*An area resident who stopped by the HLCT table at “Taste of Hingham” this spring asked us a great question. We asked Loni Fournier of the Hingham Conservation Department to provide an accurate and up-to-date answer.*

#### WHAT PERCENTAGE OF HINGHAM ACREAGE IS OPEN SPACE?

Loni’s answer: 35%.

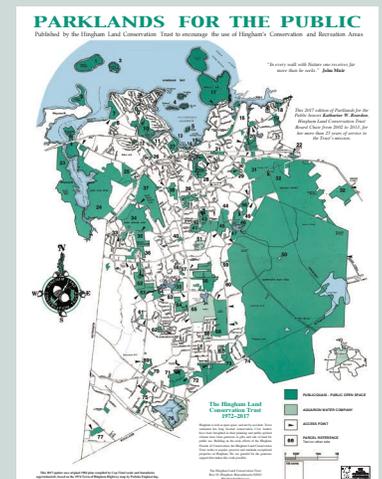
*Here are some additional interesting factoids, some of which went into Loni’s assumptions and calculations:*

**Total land area of Hingham** – 14,558 acres (23 square miles). Based on the highest quality MassGIS town boundary data, rounded to the nearest acre/square mile.

**Miles of coastline** – 20 miles. Also based on the highest quality MassGIS town boundary data. The 20-mile figure though does not include any harbor islands. When including the four Hingham Harbor islands, the total jumps to 22 miles. Adding Bumpkin to that, the total jumps to 23 miles. All figures are rounded to the nearest mile.

**Total open space in Hingham** – 5,086 acres, rounded to the nearest acre. This is based on the Town’s in-house open-space layer, using parcel data. This includes all the land that’s featured on the 6th edition of the HLCT’s *Parklands for the Public* map, including the Town’s golf course (not the private courses), public schools (not private schools), and land owned by the water company. The Lehner Conservation Area is now included. Cemeteries are not included, due to the cultural sensitivity of the sites.

*Thanks, Loni!*



## Why Join the Hingham Land Conservation Trust?

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 118 acres in the town of Hingham.

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 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 further information go to  
[www.hinghamlandtrust.org](http://www.hinghamlandtrust.org) or find us on Facebook

### Board of Trustees

Richard (Skip) Hull, *Chair*  
Eileen McIntyre, *Vice Chair*  
Thomas (Tom) Bright, *Treasurer*  
Martha Falvey, *Secretary*  
Joseph (Joe) Bierwirth  
Arthur (Art) Collins  
Don Kidston  
Zak Mertz  
Richard (Rick) Rohleder  
Nick Sowles  
Barbara Wollan

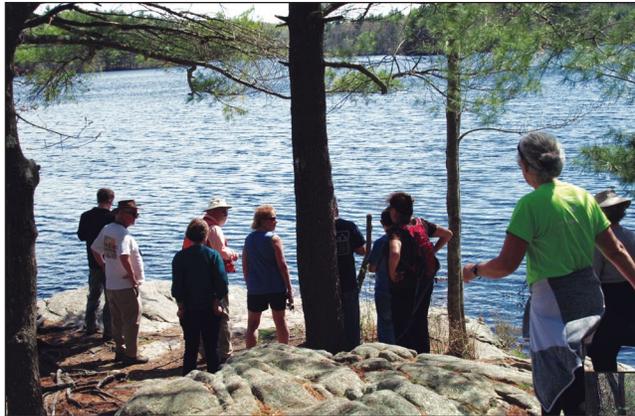
*Printed on recycled paper  
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### 2017 Financial Summary

Income .....	\$ 36,377
Expenses .....	\$ 17,143
Net Income .....	\$ 19,234
Cash Assets .....	\$ 183,409



## 2018 HLCT WALKS



### SPRING

We had a picture-perfect day on May 5th for the HLCT Spring Walk at the Aaron River Reservoir. Aaron River Reservoir, which is in Cohasset on the east side of Wompatuck State Park, was created by an earthen dam constructed in 1978. Our guide, naturalist Steve Ivas, led us along the reservoir dam and the well-maintained trail through the woods, stopping to tell us about the area's history and to point out wild flowers, lichen and rock formations of interest. Arriving on a large rock, we enjoyed a panoramic view of the reservoir looking south. As we continued along the cleared trail we saw cut granite from a long-abandoned quarry. If you'd like to explore the area on your own, the interactive trail map available at [www.friendsofwompatuck.org](http://www.friendsofwompatuck.org) includes walks along the Aaron River Reservoir.



### FALL

Thirty people boarded a Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) boat at the Hingham Shipyard on October 13th, a cold and rainy morning, for a courtesy boat ride out to Peddocks Island to enjoy the insights of guide John Galluzzo on HLCT's Fall Walk. After the group disembarked on the island, John provided historic background about Peddocks Island, one of the largest and most diverse islands in Boston Harbor. He described how the island's four heads, or drumlins, were formed about 11,000 years ago during the Ice Age. We also learned of the island's later military history, including Fort Andrews, named after Civil War General Leonard Andrews, and built on the island's East Head. The fort was active in harbor defense from 1904 to the end of World War II. The fascinating walk passed by what had been the army's recreation hall, barracks and gymnasium, and included scenic views of the "Nantasket Roads" and "Hull Gut" waterways into Boston's inner harbor. A short slide show is available on the Hingham Land Conservation Trust Facebook page. The advance sign-up for this walk quickly reached capacity, so we may revisit Peddocks on one of our seasonal walks in the future. But we encourage you to consider your own trip to Peddocks when seasonal ferry service resumes in mid-May. More info at: [www.bostonharborislands.org](http://www.bostonharborislands.org)

