



THE HINGHAM LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

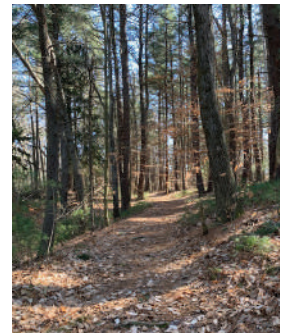
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APRIL 2020

Dear HLCT Friends and Supporters,

The last two months have been challenging times for our community, our country and all of the people of our world. Some of you likely have been touched directly by the virus that has not only caused disease and death but disrupted so much of what we once considered normal life.

At a time when social distance has been essential, even access to some parklands has been impacted. The HLCT has stayed on top of seasonal maintenance in the more accessible open spaces owned by the Trust (Eel River Woods, Jacobs Meadow and Whortleberry Hollow) so that paths would be unobstructed for those who enjoy walking in these parks. Board members who serve as stewards of these properties also monitor conditions to ensure that these spaces are not becoming crowded as other parklands shut down.



In late March, the HLCT Board of Trustees made important decisions concerning activities we had planned for this spring:

- 1) We now plan to hold the HLCT annual meeting on September 23rd, at 7 PM in the Whiton Room at the Hingham Public Library. We extended the current terms of our board members until then.
- 2) We canceled the 2020 HLCT Spring Walk, which would have taken place on May 2nd, and expect to replicate the planned walk – designed to educate walkers about work to restore the Weir River herring run – in Spring 2021.

One 2020 HLCT initiative that required prep work this spring has moved forward. You will hear more about our new *Demonstration Native Pollinator Garden Project* at our annual meeting in September. We are excited about what is underway:

- HLCT Board Vice Chair Art Collins, with the support of Loni Fournier of the Hingham Conservation Commission, made our presentation in January to the Bare Cove Park Committee, seeking permission to establish a demonstration native pollinator garden for the Town in a prominent location that was previously a cultivated garden at Bare Cove Park. Our proposal was met with enthusiasm and the wholehearted endorsement of the Committee. The Committee agreed that the area known as the Triangle Garden was an ideal location for the project.
- Planning for the project has continued as a collaborative effort with the Bare Cove Park Committee, led by Chair Ted Matthews; the South Shore chapter of the native plant

educational organization known as “Wild Ones,” led by Britt Drews of Hingham; and Hingham High Botany teacher Katie Roberts. Under Katie’s supervision, Hingham High School Botany Club members planted seeds for the project this winter in the school greenhouse. (Katie took the seedlings to her home for continued care when school closed due to the public health emergency.) We also ordered seedlings of native pollinator plants to supplement those being grown from seed.

- In April, we were able to get garden preparation underway. With help from Bare Cove Park Ranger Scott McMillan who hauled away non-native invasive plants and weeds removed from the site, a hard-working team of HLCT Board Members, practicing social distancing, got much of the clearing done in a day.



LEFT: HLCT Board members Don Kidston (left, in face mask) and Vice Chair Art Collins (right) practice social distancing as they prepare the site at Triangle Garden in Bare Cove Park.



LEFT: HLCT board members Zak Mertz (left) and Helmut Fickenwirth remove non-native plants and overgrowth from the Triangle Garden site.



LEFT: Temporary sign explains the work underway at the Triangle Garden.

Other spring activities will focus on the inner area of the Triangle Garden and include mulch spreading and fencing, followed by planting. All of these activities are being planned with precautions including social distancing. By summer we will be looking for volunteers to help with scheduled watering of the new plantings. Meanwhile, if you are out walking at Bare Cove Park, take a look at the site as work progresses.

We hope to see you in person for our annual meeting in September. At that time we will also have news about our Fall Walk. Until then, stay safe.

Eileen C. McIntyre

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Chair, Board of Trustees

Hingham Land Conservation Trust