



THE HINGHAM LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

2021 Annual Report & Newsletter

WWW.HINGHAMLANDTRUST.ORG



CELEBRATING THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF JACOBS MEADOW



On a May afternoon in 1991, thirty years ago, the Hingham Land Conservation Trust opened a new conservation area and parkland, Jacobs Meadow, in south Hingham.

For our annual meeting in May of this year, we gathered on Zoom:

- To honor, once again, the memory of Helen Burns, whose generosity created this conservation/park land.
- To learn a bit about the history of this special place, and the Jacobs family who left their mark in Hingham (and, in nearby Norwell.)
- We also celebrated this 30th anniversary of Jacobs Meadow with the premiere of “A WALK AT JACOBS MEADOW” – the first virtual walk experience produced by the HLCT.


Helen Burns, a founding trustee of the Hingham Land Conservation Trust in 1972, had moved into an antique Cape Cod cottage on Main Street in 1939. Over the decades that followed, Helen purchased 38 acres of backland in Glad Tidings Plain and presented them as gifts to the Hingham Land Conservation Trust and Hingham Conservation Commission. Additional donors of smaller parcels enabled the HLCT to make the land-locked meadow accessible to the public in 1991.



Content Provided by: Hingham Land Conservation Trust

The Glad Tidings Plain area of Hingham, where Jacobs Meadow is located, was long connected to descendants of Nicholas Jacob, an English immigrant who settled in Hingham in 1633. (After several generations here the family added an “s” to the name.) The Jacobs were prominent as millers, farmers, blacksmiths, and toolmakers. You can hear more about this Jacobs family history in the recording of our annual meeting, available at hinghamlandtrust.org. Thanks as always to Harbor Media for editing the Zoom recording for us!

SCREEN SHOT from VIRTUAL WALK

We are grateful to Zak Mertz who, in his final year of service on the board of the HLCT, undertook the creation of a virtual early-spring walk at Jacobs Meadow, featuring wetlands naturalist Steve Ivas (shown in screen shot examining wetland life for viewers) and HLCT board member and Jacobs Meadow Property Steward Rick Rohleder (shown in screen shot at kiosk which features a trail map.) . The virtual walk, our first-ever, was created in response to pandemic restrictions. The walk at Jacobs Meadow is available on our website as part of the annual meeting recording. 



Content Provided by: Hingham Land Conservation Trust



2021: MOVING FORWARD

As this year began, we'd all learned new "virtual" ways of doing things. After a year of considerable social isolation, we'd also gained a greater appreciation for the natural world — and the many places in Hingham and nearby communities where we can safely walk, get inspired, and find peace.

For the board of the HLCT this knowledge and understanding has inspired our initiatives this year:

- With parklands valued more than ever, our three volunteer Property Stewards: Don Kidston (Eel River Woods); Rick Rohleder (Jacob's Meadow); and Daniel Wells (Whortleberry Hollow) continued to respond quickly after the many wind and rainstorms of the past year (and, recently some unfortunate vandalism). They made sure that walking paths on our trust's parklands were cleared quickly, and damaged fences and boardwalks repaired. (See page 3.)
- When social distancing again made a hosted spring walk a no-go this year, we created our first-ever guided virtual

walk that showed off the early spring beauty of Jacobs Meadow, encouraging walkers to check it out on their own. (See page 1.)

- Recently we teamed with our municipal water system for an October Fall Walk that not only provided a healthy outing in the woods of south Hingham but reinforced the importance to our fresh water supply of maintaining the health of the Weir River Watershed. (See page 4.)

We created a dedicated planning team, including two former board members, that have worked through the year to prepare new programs with lasting value that we will launch during our upcoming 50th anniversary year. (See page 4.)

2021 also brought change to our board of trustees.

- In recent months we've welcomed two new members, who already are making their mark. (See page 2.)
- Early this year we said good-bye to Susan Kains who had to cut her service short as she moved west to be near family.
- Late this summer we gave special thanks to departing board member Zak Mertz who made remarkable contributions in his 3 1/2 years with us—organizing and moderating a panel of experts for our 2018 annual meeting about the impact on our area's plant life, birds, fish, and animals of climate change; and producing our first-ever virtual walk this spring.



Zak Mertz enjoying our rainy 2019 spring walk at Triphammer Pond

I thank our hands-on board for their energetic volunteer service, and all of you for your continued support of our mission. 🍀



Trustee News



WELCOME OUR TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

Joel Goloskie has been a Hingham resident for more than 20 years, experiencing the never-ending labor of love (well, sometimes just labor) inherent in restoring and maintaining an 18th century house on South Pleasant Street. As his home setting abuts both wetlands and woodlands, Joel's morning coffee might include views of a great blue heron fishing in Fulling Mill Creek or a small herd of deer grazing.

When not busy with his corporate legal work, Joel spends hours exploring and enjoying Jacobs Meadow and the neighboring Lehner Conservation Area. Joel had already engaged in some trail cleanup projects with us and was delighted to join the HLCT board this year.

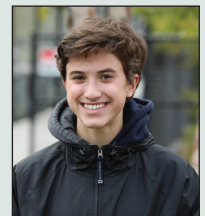
Elizabeth Moulds has lived in Hingham with her husband, Greg Corbett, and two daughters since 2012. After practicing commercial litigation and employment law in large firms in Chicago and Washington, D.C., she became a freelance writer and volunteer with community organizations when her children were born. Elizabeth's talents have benefitted her children's schools, St. John's church, the Weir River Watershed Association, and Hingham Residents Against the Compressor Station, where she was a founding member.

Elizabeth has always loved nature and gets out to enjoy the South Shore's preserved spaces as often as she can with her family or, more usually these days, with their dog. As our newest board member, Elizabeth has jumped right in, handling the publicity for our Fall Walk this year. 🍀



Philip O. Swanson Scholarship

Congratulations to Pria Parker, our 2021 Philip O. Swanson Scholarship recipient. Pria was vice president of the Green Team as a senior at Hingham High. She was also a track and field athlete and played cello in the chamber orchestra during her high school career. Outside of school Pria participated in Hingham Net Zero, and the campaign for a climate action plan for the Town of Hingham. In the school newspaper she advocated "this action plan is vital for Hingham to become more sustainable, but it also sets a precedent for surrounding areas and even in the state." 🍀



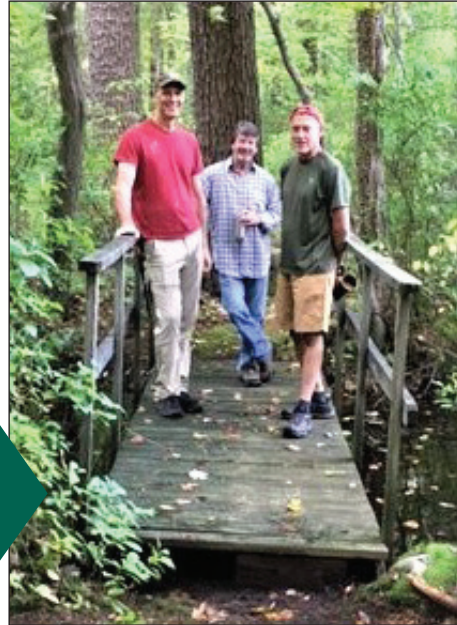


AROUND OUR PROPERTIES

Our hard-working board members and helpful volunteers made some necessary infrastructure repairs at HLCT properties this spring and summer including:



Entry fence repairs at Whortleberry Hollow, organized by board member Don Kidston (L) assisted by volunteer Roy Harris.



Sign repair and bridge-resetting as part of a Fall morning at Eel River Woods organized by board member and Property Steward Don Kidston (not shown.) The work team included (L to R) board members Art Collins and Joel Goloskie and volunteer Mark Loughlin, shown here on the re-set bridge.



The trail-clearing team at Eel River Woods this spring included (L to R) board members Helmut Fickenwirth and Tom Bright.



Shown seated on the bench are Will's four adult children: (L to R) Doug Ertman, who had driven down from Maine; Betsy Bahn, visiting from the state of Washington, Debbie Edmundson, of Hingham, and Jeff Ertman, also from Maine.

On a more festive note, several HLCT board members gathered to officially "christen" the bench, installed in 2020, dedicated in memory of founding board member Willis "Will" Ertman at Jacobs Meadow. The day seemed all the more fitting after our April celebration of Jacobs Meadow's 30th Anniversary as a parkland.



Debbie and Betsy had baked their dad's favorite, apple pie, to enjoy on what would have been his August birthday. Beautiful and delicious!

The HLCT board members joining the special occasion, Eileen McIntyre, Tom Bright, Don Kidston, and Rick Rohleder (Jacobs Meadow Property Steward), contributed the lemonade and iced tea, and we all enjoyed the vista of the meadow on a picture-perfect summer day.

Why Support the Hingham Land Conservation Trust?

The HLCT works to acquire, hold, and preserve open space in Hingham for the benefit and enjoyment of our town. Presently we own 65 acres and hold conservation restrictions on 118 acres in the town of Hingham.

We conserve land to protect our water supply, wildlife habitat, and freshwater ponds and streams. We collaborate with other civic organizations on educational programming and events.

Your gifts fund trail blazing and seasonal mowing to provide access while protecting forest, wetlands and open meadow habitats, surveys to define property boundaries, the printing of our beloved “Parklands for the Public” map, and other organizational needs.

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. Use the enclosed envelope or visit our website www.hinghamlandtrust.org to contribute by credit card.

Contact us at info@hinghamlandtrust.org or by mail at the following address:

Hingham Land Conservation Trust
PO Box 10
Hingham, MA 02043

Board of Trustees

Eileen McIntyre, *Chair*
Art Collins, *Vice Chair*
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Helmut Fickenwirth, *Secretary*
Martha Falvey
Joel Goloskie
Don Kidston
Elizabeth Moulds
Rick Rohleder
Daniel Wells

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2020 Financial Summary

Income	\$ 20, 646
Expenses	\$ 15, 991
Cash Assets	\$214, 699



Fall Walk

More than 30 people enjoyed sunshine and early autumn color on our Fall Walk in the beautiful woodlands surrounding the Weir River Water System (WRWS) on October 16. Local naturalist and wetlands scientist Steve Ivas and WRWS Managing Director Russell Tierney led the group along sometimes steep terrain up to an esker walk with views of some of the kettle ponds in the WRWS, which services Hingham, Hull, and north Cohasset. The guides shared their knowledge of the area’s geographic history, how the water system was designed, and the trees, plants, and mushrooms along the way. An optional tour of the water treatment facility was enjoyed by interested guests at the walk’s conclusion. A slideshow of additional pictures from the Fall Walk is available at www.hinghamlandtrust.org.



Pollinator Garden, Year 2



One of our objectives in creating this demonstration garden last spring is to show how little maintenance wild native plants require. This photo shows the garden at Bare Cove Park thriving a year later, in May, with only a little help from us to remove some invasive weeds that had crept in, no watering since last year, no fertilizing, and no herbicides. HLCT is working with Bare Cove Park to get the outer portion of the garden cleared this fall so that native pollinator friendly plants can be seeded. Once they are established, the surrounding park walk/roadway will create a buffer, impeding invasive weeds from getting into the garden and make it even easier to maintain. Keep an eye on the garden as it progresses in 2022.



HLCT’s 50th Anniversary

It is with great humility that we approach the 50th anniversary – in 2022 – of the Hingham Land Conservation Trust. The founding trustees were visionaries who cared for the environment and the conservation of parklands and wetlands in our town. Their initiative and determination inspired gifts of land and prompted conservation restrictions that have protected Hingham’s open spaces.

The 50th anniversary planning committee that we formed at the end of 2020 consists of two current HLCT board members – Eileen McIntyre and Don Kidston; and two long-time former board members: Kathy Reardon and Barbara Wollan. The committee has developed programs which we believe will build on the legacy created by our founders and engage the community in our mission in new ways. We look forward to sharing the exciting details at our spring 2022 50th anniversary annual meeting.