



# Annual Report 2021

August 2020 through September 2021

## Land Conservation and Stewardship

- Finalized purchase of 52-acre parcel on Route 20 in West Hartland with support of Audubon/Army Corps of Engineers In-Lieu Fee and Farmington River Coordinating Committee grants, together with previous 65-acre adjoining parcel creating the Mill District Nature Preserve (MDNP)
- Engaged prominent ecologist Harry White to amend his baseline ecological report and management plan for the second MDNP acquisition
- Developed plan for MDNP trail system and contacted CT Dept of Transportation regarding Route 20 access to trails
- Installed kiosk at planned MDNP trail parking area
- Closure of trails at Beach Nature Preserve due to storm damage; hazardous tree removal completed by Arborworks with subsequent reopening of blue trail only
- Allowed CT Dept of Energy and Environmental Protection to conduct a black bear research and management program at the Beach Nature Preserve, completed in fall of 2020
- Executed Memorandum of Understanding with CT Dept of Children and Families Wilderness School program for stewardship support and conservation education
- Monitoring of Bassett-Kell preserve completed; trail surveillance and maintenance conducted at Beach Nature Preserve

## Community Outreach

- Indoor public events cancelled due to pandemic, however offered an outdoor “park ranger” event fall 2020 with DEEP staff on Hartland Wildlife
- Planned a winter tracking event for 2021; unfortunately weather did not cooperate
- Planned a do-it-yourself Scavenger Hunt for CT Trails Day 2021 which was cancelled due to storm damage at Beach Nature Preserve
- Leopold Bench built and installed at the Edith Leopold Nature Sanctuary and discussions held with Sharon Audubon Center regarding HLT support of stewardship on that property
- Supported Town ordinance opposing anthropogenic feeding of bears
- Staffed Fire Department Carnival booth and marched in parade July 2021
- Adopted Land Acknowledgement statement for use at public meetings
- “Welcome Project” planned jointly with Hartland Historical Society and Hartland Lions’ Club, on hold due to pandemic, to resume fall 2021
- Resumption of Speaker Series events planned for September 2021 and November 2021

## Collaboration with Conservation Organizations/Conference and Workshop Participation

- HLT President and Vice President participated in CT Land Conservation Council meetings on forming a Farmington Valley Regional Land Trust group
- HLT Vice President and Treasurer participated in HVA/Litchfield Greenprints “Board Boot Camp”
- Virtual meeting held with The Nature Conservancy’s CT representative on that organization’s Resilient and Connected Landscapes interactive mapping project
- Developed and submitted testimony on Open Space and Passport to the Parks programs

### **Board and Organizational Development**

- Transitioned to virtual meetings due to pandemic
- Welcomed 3 new board members: Jane Jones, Sandy Lisella and Brandon Pizzoferrato
- Transitioned several new officers: Susan Pearson as VP, Jane Jones as Treasurer and Alana Bordewieck reassumed Secretary role
- Successful migration of HLT financial records to online Quickbooks
- Invited all donors/members to Annual Meeting September, 2021

### **Fundraising**

- Conducted successful Annual Appeal December, 2021
- Continued sale of popular Moose T-Shirts
- Held 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Flatbread fundraiser
- Continued participation in AmazonSmile program
- After one-year break due to pandemic, resumed publication of 2022 Hartland photo calendar with good advertising support from local businesses

### **Public Communication/Social Media**

- HLT website update conducted with services donated by Beth Okun of Charlotte's WebDesigns
- Facebook posts continued; linked Facebook page to website for Paypal donations
- E-mail list was transitioned to Mail Chimp for e-mail communication
- 14<sup>th</sup> edition of newsletter, *The Preservationist*, published and mailed to every Hartland resident as well as HLT members, donors and partner organizations

### **Regional Membership/Partner Organizations**

- Land Trust Alliance
- CT Land Conservation Council
- Housatonic Valley Association/Litchfield Greenprints
- Sharon Audubon Center
- Farmington River Coordinating Committee
- Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee
- Horace B. Clark Woods Advisory Committee
- Wilderness School