



Haliburton  
Highlands  
Land Trust

*Protecting the land we love  
for future generations*

# 2017 Annual General Meeting

**Saturday, June 3, 2017**

**10:00 a.m. Socialize**

**10:30 a.m. AGM begins**

Minden Hills Cultural Centre, Common Room  
176 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden, ON

## Minutes

1. Welcome
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting
4. Highlights from 2016 – Chair's Report
5. 2016 Audited Financial Statements
6. Recognition of Donors and Volunteers
7. 2017 Elections
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

The meeting came to order at 10:26 a.m. There were 22 people in attendance.

### **Agenda Item # 1, 2017**

#### **Welcome**

Mary-Lou Gerstl welcomed everyone present and introduced Board members and the HHLT Office Administrator, Christel Furness. She welcomed Christel to the Land Trust and thanked her for stepping in at a busy time.

**Agenda Item # 2, 2017**  
**Adoption of the Agenda**

**Resolution # 2017 – 1**

**Resolved:** That, the Agenda for the 2017 AGM be adopted as presented

**Moved by:** Peter Brogden

**Seconded:** Chris Whittemore

**Carried**

**Agenda Item # 3, 2017**  
**Minutes of the 2015 AGM**

**Resolution # 2017 – 2**

**Resolved:** That, the minutes of the 2016 AGM of the Haliburton Highlands Land trust be adopted as presented.

**Moved by:** Neil Campbell

**Seconded by:** Bill Lewis

**Carried**

**Agenda Item # 4, 2017**  
**Highlights of 2016 – Chair’s Report**

Mary-Lou Gerstl reviewed activity highlights from 2016.

The past year brought changes to the board with Dianne Mathes stepping down as the Chair after an extended term and my appointment as Chair after the June 2016 AGM. In addition, we saw the appointment of four new board members who have provided further strength and organization to the Land Trust.

We focused on our core responsibilities: Conservation and protection of our properties; community education and outreach; and research. We are committed to continuing this focus as we go forward and to utilize our own properties wherever possible in an effort to create an increased awareness of the Land Trust.

In December 2016 we received notification from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) that the Dahl family has been recognized nationally as one of 150 Canadians who have donated lands through the Ecological Gifts Program as part of Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of confederation. ECCC has also recognized the Land Trust as the recipient organization for conserving biodiversity and promoting conservation and stewardship through partnerships. The Dahl family and the Land Trust have received a letter from the Minister as well as a plaque to be installed at the property. The plaque dedication will take place in the fall of 2017.

Our fundraising efforts were rewarded with a very successful golf tournament and gala in 2016. Our Discovery Days events continue to attract greater attendance and community interest. Our membership numbers have increased through our events and as we utilize every opportunity to reach out and communicate with our community.

We continue to partner with other members of our community wherever possible. We partnered with Abbey Gardens, Trent University and CFICE to develop a series of Educational Events. Our library collection is “circulating well”. Our display at Nature’s Place in Minden is complete. We look forward to continuing these partnerships and developing more in the coming year.

2016 saw the final year for funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). Unfortunately due to budget constraints we have had to eliminate the paid roles of Director of Resource Development and Project Coordinator, which the OTF funding had provided. Many of the key responsibilities of these roles have had to be absorbed by board members. This is not an ideal situation and we are looking to hire staff as funding becomes available.

This was also the last year for our three year Turtle Road Mortality Mitigation project. While this project was extremely taxing from a resource perspective, it was hugely successful. We continue to hear from communities, individuals and municipalities asking for information on the project as they attempt to save the turtles in their own communities.

In August we applied for Canada 150 Funding in the amount of \$29,200.00. We are pleased to announce that we have been granted the full funding for three projects in 2017. We are proud to be chosen out of thousands of applicants across Canada.

In October we applied to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Ontario Species at Risk Stewardship Fund for a grant for a two-year “Bats at Risk Assessment, Endangered Species Monitoring and Management” project. We have received confirmation that we will receive \$104,000.00 to complete the study in 2017/18.

Other grants that support our projects and our Discovery Days program include TD Friends of the Environment, the Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network, the Gosling Foundation, and the Haliburton County Development Corporation.

We expect our coming year to be both busy and successful. We will focus on attracting new board members who can help us with our fundraising efforts in order to augment our staff to provide program management and help build our stewardship fund for future acquisitions. Our members can play a key role in helping us recruit new board members. Word of mouth is often the best form of advertising and we would be pleased to talk to potential candidates who are recommended by our members.

### **Resolution # 2017 – 3**

**Resolved:** That, the 2016 Chair’s Report on the activity highlights of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust be received for information.

**Moved by:** Sheila Ziman

**Seconded:** Greg Wickware

**Carried**

### **Agenda Item # 5, 2017**

#### **Presentation of the 2016 Audited Financial Statements**

The 2016 audited financial statements as approved by the Board of Directors were posted on the HHLT website and were distributed at the AGM and reviewed with the membership by Treasurer, Scott Durie. Scott reiterated a couple of items that created both opportunities and challenges and ultimately had a bearing on our financial year: Mary-Lou mentioned our “core responsibilities”. This is an ongoing theme from 2015 and is important to how we think about managing our financial resources. To that end, in

2016 we continued to mature our project-based budgeting/tracking, which has enabled the financial data to inform our decision-making. Secondly, staff turnover is also an ongoing theme from 2015. New board members, new office administration and elimination of some paid roles. Mary-Lou mentioned the importance of board members, volunteers and partnerships to enable our success.

The bottom line is that we finished 2016 with a surplus of revenue over expenses of \$7,672. This compares with a surplus of approximately \$5,000 in 2015 and a deficit of approximately \$2,000 in 2014. 2016 reflects a combination of good management of expenses, better insights into our various initiatives and the successful fundraising at the golf tournament and gala.

The key messages are that we have had a couple of successful years and we've been trying to put some resources aside. At the same time, as we move forward and explore ways to grow our property holdings, it will take money – not every year will have us with a surplus.

We thank all those who have helped make us successful: Donors, members, volunteers, board members, etc. More importantly, we continue to believe that there is more to be done. Although we have created a stable platform, we believe that a major donor/benefactor is out there and we just haven't met yet, or haven't asked the question. It would be great to connect!

#### **RESOLUTION # 2017 – 4**

**Resolved:** That, the 2016 Audited Financial Statements of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust as presented to the membership at the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Land Trust be received for information.

**Moved by:** Scott Durie

**Seconded:** Joan Duhaime

**Carried**

#### **RESOLUTION # 2017 – 5**

**Resolved:** That, the firm of Peter Shennett Professional Corporation be appointed as the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust Auditors for the 2017 financial year.

**Moved by:** Bill Lewis

**Seconded:** Sheila Ziman

**Carried**

#### **Agenda Item # 6 – 2017**

##### **Recognition of Donors and Volunteers**

Mary-Lou Gerstl thanked volunteers, sponsors and donors. Without them, we would not be able to continue our work and fulfill our mandate to protect and preserve properties in perpetuity.

Our volunteers, including volunteer property monitors, fundraising and event volunteers, artisans, the Board of Directors, etc. work tirelessly on behalf of the Land Trust.

Thank you to the Directors leaving the Board: Chris Whittemore, David Lawrence, Lee Battiston and Lois Deacon. We thank you for your contributions and commitment.

Our members continue to provide the financial support needed through fees and financial donations to support our day-to-day operations.

The Land Trust would not exist without Land Donors. Thank you to Bruce Carruthers, the Dahl family, Don Smith, and Dennis Barry.

**Agenda Item # 7 – 2017  
2017 Elections**

For elections, the officers of the Board all step down and an election chair is asked by the membership to conduct the elections. Lois Deacon has been asked to fill this role if there is no objection from the Membership.

**Appointment of Election Chair**

**Resolved: That,** Lois Deacon be appointed as Election Chair

**Moved by:** Peter Brogden

**Seconded:** Chris Whittemore

**Carried**

**Election of Directors**

The Election Chair explained that the HHLT by-laws allow for up to eleven directors on the Board. A total of nine board members were ratified at the 2016 AGM. The Election Chair also explained that four Directors are stepping down from the Board, and the Board appointed one additional Director earlier in 2017. These six current sitting Directors are presented with the Board's recommendation for approval.

Assuming ratification of the six directors by the membership, there are still five director vacancies to be considered. If more than five nominations are made from the floor, an election is held and the five nominees receiving the greatest number of votes are elected as directors (bringing the total to eleven).

Further nominations for directors are sought three times from the floor before nominations are closed. Nominations require a mover and a seconder in accordance with Article 5.03 of By-law Number 1 but are not voted on.

Firstly, the Membership is asked to consider ratification of the six director appointments:

**RESOLUTION # 2017 – 6**

**Resolved:** That, Board resolutions #15-2017 and #16-2017 appointing the following Directors to the HHLT Board for terms as indicated by their name: Mary-Lou Gerstl-2 years, Joan Duhaime-2 years, Terry Carr-2 years, Greg Wickware-2 years, Scott Durie-1 year, Sheila Ziman-2 years, be ratified.

**Moved by:** Margery Cartwright

**Seconded:** Janis Parker

**Carried**

The Election Chair called for nominations from the floor to fill the five vacant Director positions.

**Resolved:** That, having called for nominations from the floor three (3) times and not receiving any, the Director nominations for the Land Trust for 2017 were declared closed.

**Moved by:** Scott Durie

**Seconded:** Neil Campbell

**Carried**

## **Election of Chair**

### **Resolution 2017 – 7**

**RESOLVED:** That, Mary-Lou Gerstl has stated her willingness to continue Chair of the Land Trust for 2017 and the Board of Directors makes this nomination.

**Moved by:** Chris Whittemore      **Seconded:** Neil Campbell

**Carried**

### **Agenda Item # 8 – 2017**

#### **Other Business**

Members brought forward ideas/comments for information.

### **Agenda Item # 9 - 2017**

#### **Adjournment**

**Moved by:** Scott Durie

The Land Trust AGM adjourned at 11:30 a.m.