



Haliburton  
Highlands  
Land Trust

Protecting the land we love  
for future generations

## **2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 15, 2021**

**6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
via zoom**

### AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting
4. Highlights from 2020 and recognition of Donors and Volunteers - Chair Report
5. Advocacy Policy
6. 2020 Audited Financial Statements
7. 2021 Election
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

The virtual 2021 AGM came to order at 6:03 PM. There were 33 people signed in. A quorum was present.

**Agenda item #1, 2021: Welcome**

Shelley Hunt, Chair of HHLT, welcomed everyone present and introduced Board members and the HHLT office administrator, Christel Furniss

**Agenda item #2, 2021: Adoption of Agenda**

**Resolution # 1 – AGM 2021**

**Resolved:** That the agenda for the 2021 AGM be adopted as presented.

**Moved by:** Sheila Ziman **Seconded by:** Margery Cartwright.

**Carried**

**Agenda item #3, 2021: Minutes of the 2020 AGM**

**Resolution # 2 - AGM 2021**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the 2020 AGM of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) be adopted as presented.

**Moved by:** Arlene Burch **Seconded by:** Scott Durie

**Carried**

**Agenda item #4, 2021: Highlights of the Chair's Report**

The following is Shelley Hunt's review of the highlights of 2020

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust Annual General Meeting 2021 – Chair's Report

The year 2020 was an eventful and fruitful year for HHLT. Despite the challenges imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, HHLT was successful in stewarding our properties, raising funds, securing grants, conducting research, and engaging the community with educational opportunities and materials – all of this aimed at protecting the land we love for current and future generations.

## **Grants**

We applied for and were awarded several grants in 2020 and early 2021.

The RBC Foundation funded the mapping and evaluation of the Lochlin Wetland Complex for HHLT by Paul Heaven of Glenside Ecological Services (\$25,000). This work resulted in the designation of this wetland as provincially significant. This spring (2021), we also received RBC's 'Tech for Nature' grant (\$25,000), to help classify wetlands and evaluate habitat connectivity across part of the county that constitutes an important wildlife corridor.

We were successful in securing a significant grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Fund (\$48,500), intended to help HHLT recover from and adapt to the impacts of Covid-19. We will be using these funds to redesign our website and improve our capability to offer virtual education programs and online fundraising.

We were once again granted funds by the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation in support of our Discovery Days educational programs (\$6,900). We were able to pivot and offer these virtually this past year – with 'my backyard challenges' encouraging people to observe nature close to home and share photos with us on different themes from birds to bugs to spring wildflowers. We hosted a well-attended and received live-animal zoom presentation by Speaking of Wildlife, as part of Discovery Days.

Through the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA), we have secured funds (\$8,600) and training to monitor and protect species at risk on our properties over the next two years. Funding from OLTA was provided through the Conserving Species at Risk Program (CSAR).

## **Fundraising**

HHLT was in new fundraising territory throughout most of 2020, having to adjust to pandemic restrictions by holding fundraising events virtually. Our annual Rock Our World (ROW) fundraiser went online, and included an online auction conducted over Facebook. It was a success, and also a great learning experience, and we have since researched and discovered better platforms for running online auctions – we have another online auction planned for 2021, on a more functional platform. This will have a 'Pay it Forward' format to help support local businesses. The online auction and other ROW donations raised more than \$6500 in 2020.

The 'Adopt-an-Acre' program has been very popular, bringing in nearly \$7500 in 2020. Membership numbers also continued to grow – funds raised from memberships more than doubled from 2019, with membership fees helping to support the day-to-day operation of the land trust.

Our very creative fundraising committee coordinated the production of two jigsaw puzzles in 2020 and early 2021, through local business The Occurrence. The puzzles, depicting Barnum Creek and the Burnt River at Dahl Forest sold very well – in 2020 alone, we sold 75 copies of the Barnum puzzle at \$34 each.

### **Partners and Community**

HHLT is fortunate to have strong support in the community.

We are very grateful to the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC) for generously providing funds (\$6,700) in 2020 to help HHLT produce and install signage, gates, and pedestrian walkthroughs at Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. More recently, we received a Local Initiatives Program grant from HCDC to help us with a plan to improve the entrance lane and parking at Barnum. We greatly appreciate this vital support.

We were very pleased to receive a total of \$3500 in donations from the Rotary Club – many thanks to them for choosing HHLT. These funds have been used in part for hiking trail development.

This month, we were also very excited to be the lucky recipients of the proceeds of Canoe FM's Radio Bingo. The \$5000 contribution will be put towards the parking lot and access improvements at Barnum, assuming we receive permission from the Ecogifts program to make these improvements.

We continue to collaborate and strengthen our partnership with U-links, as well as Trent University and Fleming College. We benefitted greatly from work completed by students for the land trust and look forward to further enhancing these connections.

We have partnered with Yours Outdoors to offer guided hikes of Barnum Creek and Dahl Forest, and we expect these to become popular once pandemic restrictions are relaxed. Guided hikes allow us to raise awareness and educate visitors and the local community about the land trust and the valuable natural heritage of the Highlands.

### **Volunteers**

HHLT's many activities and accomplishments over the past year would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers, including hardworking members of our board, tireless trail monitors, caring committee members, and many others. We would

simply not be able to function without the efforts of our volunteers, who are critical to our fundraising, research, and education initiatives, and do the important work of keeping an eye on our properties and trails to ensure their safety and maintenance.

### **Events and Initiatives**

The autumn of 2020 saw the official opening of Barnum Creek Nature Reserve to the public. A small ceremony was held in accordance with public health guidelines. The trails at Barnum have been very well-used throughout the winter and spring.

Over the past year, HHLT has become involved in promoting increased protection for a large swath of land we are calling the 'Highlands Corridor'. This is an area rich in wetlands and species at risk that stretches between three provincial parks (Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands, Kawartha Highlands, and Silent Lake), and contains a high proportion of Crown Land. Over the past several years, HHLT has been instrumental in taking stock of the natural heritage in this area through wetland mapping, etc., in fulfillment of our mission to protect nature in the Highlands beyond the borders of our properties. We have collaborated with Ontario Nature and Glenside Ecological Services to ensure that the Highlands Corridor is included in discussions of future protected areas in Ontario, and we will be presenting on this topic at an upcoming virtual event (The People's Summit) aimed at showcasing areas around the province in need of protection.

### **Special Mentions**

We would like to recognize and express our deep gratitude to two land donors who passed away this past year – Don Smith, who donated the land that is now the HHLT's Smith Forest, and Leopoldina (Leo) Dobrzensky, who, along with her daughter Margaret, made the wonderful gift to the community that is Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. Their legacies will live on through these special places and the nature they protect in perpetuity.

In closing, HHLT is grateful for the support of the community, our volunteers, members, and donors, without which we would not be able to accomplish our mission of protecting the land that we love. We are looking forward to another exciting and eventful year. On behalf of the Board, thank you!

Shelley Hunt

Board of Directors Chair 2021

**Resolution #3 – AGM 2021**

**Resolved:** That the 2021 Chair's Report on the highlights of HHLT be received for information.

**Moved by:** Doug Auld **Seconded by:** Ian Darragh

**Carried**

### **Agenda item #5, 2021: Advocacy Policy**

Jennifer Dailloux spoke on the development of HHLT Advocacy Policy that was developed after months of research and discussion by the Board. It was triggered by a question raised from a member of HHLT at the 2019 AGM.

The Advocacy Policy was developed with legislative justification for a charitable organization such as HHLT, to respond to issues that matter a great deal to HHLT. The Advocacy Policy is a framework for the Board to get involved and explore policies, (using research and data, acquired and sponsored) educating policy makers to make informed decisions.

The Advocacy Policy will be posted on the HHLT website

Resolution #4- AGM 2021

**Resolved:** That the Advocacy Policy be received for information.

**Moved by:** Sheila Ziman **Seconded by:** Terry Moore

**Carried**

### **Agenda item #6, 2021: 2020 Audited Financial Statements**

Shelley Hunt introduced Tyson Shennett. He explained his role as auditor to look at and express an opinion of financial statements for the year. Tyson stated that for the sixth consecutive year, he gave a clean opinion that the HHLT financial statements fairly represents where HHLT was by December 31st, 2020.

Tyson provided details on some line items that stood out from 2019 and gave a summary of the Land Trust's financial position. In summary Tyson sees the Land Trust had a good year in 2020, over 2019 and we are in a stronger better financial position going forward.

Some Highlights

1. More grants were received in 2020 than in 2019
2. Donations were down from 2019 but that was due to a one-time donation in 2019.
3. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, total revenue was down, but so were expenses.  
Overall fund-raising was successful.
4. Membership is a bit more than double over 2019. Total membership is 185

#### **Resolution #5 – AGM 2021**

**Resolved:** That the 2020 audited financial statements of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust as presented to the membership at the 2021 AGM be received for information.

**Moved by:** Scott Durie **Seconded by:** John Smith

**Carried**

#### **Resolution #6 – AGM 2021**

Resolved that the firm of Peter Shennett Professional Corporation be appointed as the HHLT auditors for the 2021 financial year.

**Moved by:** Joan Duhaime **Seconded by:** Arlene Burch

**Carried**

#### **Agenda item #7, 2021: 2021 Election**

##### **Resolution #7 – AGM 2021**

Resolved that Sheila Ziman be appointed as Election Chair

**Moved by:** Margaret Cox **Seconded by:** Lillian Hall

**Carried**

##### **Resolution #8 – AGM 2021**

Resolved that the report of the Nominating Committee be received and that the following persons be elected or re-elected to the HHLT Board of Directors for their appropriate term.

Sheila Ziman - elected to a three-year term  
Greg Wickware – re-elected to a one-year term  
Martha Larsen – re-elected to a two-year term  
Mary-Lou Gerstl – elected to a three-year term  
Joan Duhaime – elected to a three-year term  
David Bathe – elected to a three-year term\_  
Shelley Hunt - re-elected to a two-year term  
Jennifer Dailloux - re-elected to a two-year term

**Moved by:** Ian Darragh **Seconded by:** Margaret Cox

**Carried**

### **Resolution #9 – AGM 2021**

Resolved that having called for nominations from the floor three times and not receiving any, Director nominations for the Land Trust for 2021 are declared closed.

**Moved by:** Arlene Burch **Seconded by:** Mary-Lou Gerstl

**Carried**

### **Resolution #10 – AGM 2021**

Resolved that, declaring her willingness to continue as HHLT Chair for 2021 and having the support of the Board of Directors, Shelley Hunt is elected as Chair of HHLT until the 2022 AGM.

**Moved by:** Ian Darragh **Seconded by:** Terry Moore

**Carried**

### **Agenda item #8, 2021: Other Business**

Martha Larsen thanked Ian Darragh for donating his photograph for our Barnum Creek jigsaw puzzle.

Ian Darragh wanted to give a shout out to the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student, Colleen Petric for designing the Barnum Creek logo. Sheila Ziman commented



County Sign under Sheila's direction made the sign and the County paid for and erected the sign.

Joan Duhaime mentioned the Dahl Forest logo, originally designed by Peggy Dahl is being revised and to look forward to seeing it.

Mary Lou Gerstl reminded the HHLT members present of the online auction, HHLT's main fundraiser is August 1-15 2021. We have currently raised \$4000.00 from businesses that have done well through the pandemic to pay it forward to businesses less fortunate. HHLT will use the money to buy merchandise or services from those businesses to place in the auction.

Margaret Dobrzensky thanked all HHLT volunteers and members for their contributions in keeping Barnum Creek in the spirit it was intended, preserved for the community to enjoy.

Dave Bathe wanted to thank the individuals, companies and government for their support throughout 2020. Going into 2020 looked pretty scary to project income with the pandemic looming but we were able to do research, manage our properties and keep HHLT in good stead thanks to everyone's commitment and involvement.

Christel Furniss wanted to thank everyone for their involvement with HHLT. She looks forward to seeing 'more faces' in the office.

### **Agenda Item # 9, 2021: Adjournment**

Scott Durie moved to adjourn at 7:00 PM