



Haliburton  
Highlands  
Land Trust

Protecting the land we love  
for future generations

**2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MINUTES**

**MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2023**

**7:00 - 8:00 P.M.**

**VIA ZOOM**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting
4. Highlights from 2022 and recognition of Donors and Volunteers - Chair Report
5. 2022 Audited Financial Statements
6. 2023 Election
7. Other Business
8. Adjournment

The 2023 AGM came to order at 7:01 PM, There were 44 people registered and 31 people signed in. A quorum was present.

**2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Resolutions**

**Agenda item #1, 2023: Welcome**

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

Shelley also acknowledged Haliburton County is situated on Anishinaabe lands.

The Haliburton Land Trust respectfully acknowledges that the Williams Treaties First Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands. First Nations people have been in Haliburton County for thousands of years. They fished, gathered and hunted in this area. They were excellent stewards of the land and water. We honour them for their wise stewardship and hope that we can work with First Nations to continue to protect lands and waters in Haliburton County. We are grateful for their wisdom and leadership. We are committed to caring for this land and each other, in peace and friendship, for the sake of future generations to come.

### **Agenda item #2, 2023: Adoption of Agenda**

#### **Resolution # 1 – AGM 2023**

**Resolved:** That the agenda for the 2023 AGM be adopted as presented.

**Moved by:** Todd Hall **Seconded by:** Rob Halupka

**Carried**

### **Agenda item #3, 2023: Minutes of the 2022 AGM**

#### **Resolution # 2 - AGM 2023**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the 2022 AGM of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) be adopted as presented.

**Moved by:** Sheila Ziman **Seconded by:** Martha Larsen

**Carried**

### **Agenda item #4, 2023: Highlights of the Chair's Report**

**The following is Shelley Hunt's review of highlights of 2022.**

#### **Haliburton Highlands Land Trust Annual General Meeting 2023 – Chair's Report**

The year 2022 was an eventful and fruitful year for HHLT. Our organization 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. We also completed the process of developing a new strategic plan as a roadmap for the near future.

#### **Grants and associated projects**

We were successful in receiving several grants in 2022 and early 2023.

We were once again granted funds by the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation in support of our Discovery Days educational programs and other initiatives. We are

happily back to mainly in-person programming, including the Speaking of Wildlife program over March Break and we have made plans for more in-person educational events through the rest of the year (e.g., a bat walk and a geology program planned for the summer). These funds will also allow us to develop and produce a virtual interpretive trail walk for Barnum Creek Nature Reserve with an app called PocketSights.

We completed the work associated with our most recent Species-at-Risk Stewardship Fund grant, from the Ontario Government, with field surveys taking place in 2022 to search for at-risk lady beetles and a rare wetland plant. We captured public interest with the lady beetle project and had the public hunting for the 'lost lady beetles' throughout 2022. Although we did not locate the lady beetles of interest, we did raise awareness through outreach activities; for example, we had 60 different observers submit over 250 lady beetles' observations to the 'Lady Beetles of Haliburton County' iNaturalist project.

In 2022, with the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Resilient Communities Fund grant that we secured last year, we hired consultants to guide us through a strategic plan renewal process that involved several visioning/planning sessions with board and staff, as well as a survey and focus groups involving stakeholders such as members, volunteers, and donors. Many hours of board time went into this initiative and we feel that we have emerged with a strong sense of purpose and achievable goals. The new plan has been approved by the board and will be shared on our website in the near future.

We continue to extend our Habitat Stewardship Program grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada. We have successfully secured funds from ECCC for several years now, and once again they upgraded our funds in 2022 and have extended our grant into 2025. The grant funds will support continued work in wetland mapping and evaluation, and the development of outreach materials such as best management practices for relevant species in the Highlands Corridor. Crucially, the funds also support the continued building of our Partners in Conservation program, through which we aim to protect more private land through partnerships with private landowners (specifically offering property management plans and enrolling landowners in a tax incentive program to promote good stewardship).

We continue to work through various channels to promote increased protection for the 'Highlands Corridor' as part of a push to increase the protection of lands and waters in the Highlands, beyond HHLT properties. Many of you are well-versed on this project as it has garnered a great deal of interest over the past year, including a packed house at the fish hatchery this past spring for a public presentation on the Corridor. As a brief introduction, the Highlands Corridor 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 unceded 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 continue to

collaborate with partners such as Ontario Nature and Glenside Ecological Services to ensure that the Highlands Corridor is included in discussions of future protected areas in Ontario (e.g., communicating with MECP staff and minister, and NGOs such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada). In 2022, we were fortunate to receive support from the Schad Foundation to further promote the Highlands Corridor initiative through a dedicated website and various outreach activities. We presented our case to County Council for the second time, and received support in the form of a motion to support the protection of lands and waters in the Corridor, in principle. Most recently, HHLT held a reception at Queen's Park that was well-attended by MPPs and other government associates and greatly raised the profile of the Corridor. Momentum on this project is going strong. Many thanks to those who have agreed to act as an advisory committee for this initiative, and special mention to Sheila and to Paul Heaven for their hours of hard work on this project!

## **Fundraising**

Our annual fundraising event in 2022 was the wonderful 'Birds of a Feather' concert by Drew Murray Allen at Abbey Gardens. This was accompanied by an online auction. We raised a significant amount of funds (over \$9000 of net revenue), particularly through the auction, but the amount of volunteer labour involved in organizing the concert and auction was not something we could repeat this year and so we put a pause on this kind of annual fundraiser for 2023, and are considering our options moving forward. Recognition is due to the board members and volunteers who were integral to this effort last year, namely Mary-Lou Gerstl, Martha Larsen, Andi Rodgers, Kris McClory, and Rob Rattray (also thank you to Brad Brown, the videographer who donated his services that evening, and all of the artists who turned birdhouses into works of art for the auction, and any other folks who donated auction items). Rob, Andi, and Kris have moved on from the HHLT fundraising committee, and we are so grateful for their herculean efforts over the years. We are currently recruiting volunteers to join the fundraising committee.

We were successful in increasing our donation revenue in 2022, raising more than twice what we did in 2021 (\$38,000 in 2022). Membership revenue was down from the previous year, but we are very thankful for new members, for those who continue to renew their memberships, and for those who have been able to join as lifetime members. Membership funds provide a steady stream of income that is indispensable to our day-to-day operations – we couldn't do it without you!

Our ongoing 'Move for Nature' fundraiser allows HHLT volunteers and other members to take part in outdoor challenges that their friends and family can sponsor through Canada Helps, with funds going to HHLT for property stewardship and general expenses. While we have raised several thousand dollars through this initiative, we'd like to increase that, and we encourage all of our members to join this fun initiative!

## **Other Initiatives**

Governance update: Behind the scenes, our board has been working hard over the past few years to update and develop policies and practices that aim to conform to the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices, currently overseen by the Centre for Land Conservation. We are working towards accreditation for HHLT, which will further strengthen our organization. Our board has also recently reaffirmed our existing bylaws.

**Thank you to our volunteers, members, and other donors.**

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. We also extend a warm thank-you to our members and other donors, whose financial contributions give us the support we need to carry out all of our activities and initiatives.

Special thanks also to our intrepid office staff person, Christel Furniss, for her enthusiasm and dedication to the land trust this past year.

Special mention to several board members whose roles are changing – a warm thank-you and farewell to Martha who was so dedicated as our secretary and fundraising committee member extraordinaire. Thank you to Joan Duhaime for stepping up to take on the secretary role. Thank you also to Rob Halupka for stepping into the big shoes left by David Bathe as Treasurer.

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  
HHLT Board of Directors Chair 2023

**Resolution # 3 – AGM 2023**

Resolved: That the 2023 Chair's Report on the highlights of HHLT be received for information.

**Moved by:** Joan Duhaime **Seconded by:** Jennifer Dailloux

**Carried**

**Agenda item #5, 2023: 2022 Audited Financial Statements**

Shelley Hunt introduced Tyson Shennett, from Peter Shennett Professional Corporation. He explained his role as auditor to look at and express an opinion of financial statements for the year. Tyson stated that for the seventh consecutive year, he gave a clean opinion that the HHLT financial statements fairly represent where HHLT was as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Tyson provided details on some line items that stood out from 2022 and gave a summary of the Land Trust's financial position. In summary, Tyson sees HHLT's revenue has increased from 2021 by \$50,000.00. This is due to more Grant money and a significant increase of donations to HHLT. Tyson remarked that the increase in donations is a significant indication of general support for the land trust. Expenses were increased as well to indicate significant work done throughout the year for the Land Trust. In conclusion, HHLT revenues were significantly up over expenses which indicates a good news story for this year. Tyson thanked Dale Bull, Christel Furniss, Rob Halupka and Dave Bathe for keeping all financial information running smoothly.

#### **Resolution # 4-AGM 2023**

Resolved: That the 2022 audited financial statements of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust as presented to the membership at the 2023 AGM be received for information.

**Moved by:** Rob Halupka **Seconded by:** Todd Hall

**Carried**

#### **Resolution # 5-AGM 2023**

Resolved: That the firm of Peter Shennett Professional Corporation be appointed as the HHLT auditors for the 2023 financial year.

**Moved by:** Sheila Ziman **Seconded by:** Huw Morgan

**Carried**

#### **Agenda item # 6, 2023: 2023 Election**

##### **Resolution # 6 – AGM 2023**

Resolved that Sheila Ziman be appointed as Election Chair.

**Moved by:** Huw Morgan **Seconded by:** Ian Darragh

**Carried**

##### **Resolution # 7 – AGM 2023**

Todd Hall is a new Board member and is nominated for a three-year term.

Resolved: That Todd Hall be nominated for a three-year term

**Moved by:** Ralph Baehre **Seconded by:** Joan Duhaime

**Carried**

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 - re-elected to a one-year term

Mary-Lou Gerstl – re-elected to a one-year term

Joan Duhaime – re-elected to a one-year term

David Bathe – re-elected to a one-year term

Shelley Hunt - re-elected to a three-year term

Jennifer Dailloux - re-elected to a three-year term

Ralph Baehre - re-elected to a two-year term

Huw Morgan - re-elected to a two-year term

Rob Halupka - re-elected to a two-year term

Todd Hall - elected for a three-year term

**Moved by:** Margery Cartwright **Seconded by:** Ian Darragh

**Carried**

### **Resolution # 8 – AGM 2023**

Resolved that having called for nominations from the floor three times and not receiving any, Director nominations for the Land Trust for 2023 are declared closed.

**Moved by:** Todd Hall **Seconded by:** Jen Dailloux

**Carried**

### **Resolution # 9 – AGM 2023 “Interim Chair”**

Resolved that, declaring her willingness to continue as HHLT Interim Chair for 2023 and having the support of the Board of Directors, Shelley Hunt is elected as “Interim Chair” of HHLT until the 2024 AGM.

Definition of ‘Interim Chair’: Shelley explained that within the last year she has been unable to commit to the Chair’s position as fully as she has in the past. She is willing to stay on as Chair until someone else is willing and able to step into the role.

**Moved by:** Rob Halupka **Seconded by:** Ralph Baehre

**Carried**

## **Agenda item #7, 2023: Other Business**

Dave Bathe thanked Tyson Shennett for his work throughout the years and his consistency in being a part of the HHLT financials. Dave also thanked Rob for jumping into and transitioning into the treasure's role, Thanks again to Christel and Dale for their work in keeping our financials and bookkeeping in good shape.

Question re Strategic Plan: HHLT Board was competently led through the strategic planning process by Arising Collective, Lauren Hunter and Suzanne Galloway.

The Strategic Plan was worked on from September 2022 to April 2023. It was approved by the Board and will be on the website shortly for all to view.

Christel noted that she is very proud to be a part of HHLT. She recognizes through calls and testimonials from many people that our little hard-working organization has a broad reach and makes a big difference in the community.

Ian Darragh thanked Christel for all her dedication to HHLT.

Sheila thanked our media partners, local papers, The Highlander and Haliburton Echo & Minden Times who constantly support our projects through excellent media coverage.

Shelley also thanked Ed Poropat, who is an important valuable member of the HHLT. For example, Ed's excellent article and photos on the Chorus Frog, published by our local papers, attracted the attention of CBC and resulted in a radio interview with Paul Heaven where he was able to discuss our ongoing research and the importance of protecting the Highlands Corridor. He brought to the community information about the chorus frogs.

## **Agenda item #8, 2023: Adjournment**

Martha Larsen moved to adjourn at 8:01 PM