



*Protecting the land we love
for future generations*

**Minutes
Haliburton Highlands
Land Trust
Annual General Meeting
June 23, 2025
zoom**

2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

1. Welcome - Todd Hall, HHLT Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03PM. He welcomed the participants after noting that we have quorum.
2. Indigenous Engagement/Acknowledgement – Sheila shared a land acknowledgement statement. Sheila shared that HHLT is committed to working with Indigenous people and organizations as we move forward. We have hired Cambium Indigenous Professional Services to work with us over the coming months. Nancy Cooper, one of HHLT’s Partners in Conservation, welcomed participants to our recent Bioblitz at Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. She, her wife and son spent the day at the event, participated in various guided events and made excellent connections between and among the naturalists and participants. HHLT appreciates Nancy’s involvement with HHLT and her ongoing support as we strive to strengthen our relationships with the Indigenous community.

3. Adoption of the Agenda for the 2025 HHLT AGM

Resolution # 1 – AGM 2025

Resolved that the agenda for the 2025 AGM be adopted as presented.

Motion – Mary Lou Seconded – Keith Passed

4. Conflict of Interest Declaration – none

5. Approval of Minutes of 2025 Annual General Meeting

Resolution # 2 - AGM 2025

Resolved that the minutes of the 2025 AGM of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) be adopted as presented.

Motion – Huw Seconded – Ian Darragh Passed

6. **Approval of minutes** from General Meeting of Membership held in March 2025 to approve changes to bylaws.

Resolution # 3 – AGM 2025

Resolved that the minutes from the General Meeting of membership held on March 20, 2025, to approve changes to bylaws, be adopted as presented.

Motion – Sheila Seconded – Huw Passed

7. Introduction of current Board Members and Staff – Todd introduced the Board Members in attendance and sent regrets from those unable to attend. He also introduced Christel Furniss, Office Administrator, and Laura O’Neill, Land Stewardship Manager. He thanked both for their dedication and excellent work. A special thanks was extended to Board Member Mary Lou Gerstl for her over ten years of volunteer service to HHLT. Mary Lou has made a direct and lasting impact on our organization through her work on policies, fundraising, office management and through her time as HHLT Chair. Thanks Mary Lou! We will miss you on the Board and are very pleased that you will stay involved as a committee member on various HHLT committees.

8. **Chair’s Report** – Todd shared the many projects, events, initiatives and excellent work done by our dedicated Board, staff, contract workers and volunteers in 2024. Our contract workers – Adrian Martin, Rick Whitteker, and Paul Heaven were praised for their excellent contribution. Our property monitors, fundraising, and event volunteers were recognized for their dedication. A huge thank you was given for the financial support received through our online auction and fundraising campaigns. Due to the generosity of our donors, we can continue to keep our office open and functional, steward our properties, and expand our property holdings.

Mention of the efforts to increase protection of the Milburn Kendrick area of interest was made. HHLT acknowledges that the government did not proceed with this added protection by considering it to be made a conservation reserve, however HHLT is pleased that the land is still protected as Crown Land. Todd wrapped up 2024 as a very successful, positive and rewarding year for HHLT.

Resolution # 4 – AGM 2025

Resolved that the 2024 Chair’s Report on the highlights of HHLT be received for information.

Motion - Seconded - Passed

9. **Audited Financial Statement 2024** – Rob (Treasurer)

Rob spoke to the fact that we have changed auditors due to our previous auditor changing firms. We were lucky to find the firm of Hufton, Valvano, Grover Phillipp (HVGP) and have been very pleased with their work on our financials in preparation for this AGM. Rob highlighted specific sections of our 2024 Audited Financials. As noted, we receive much of our funding from grants. We had a very successful year as we secured a number of grants for various projects and purposes. The money received in grants is all dedicated specifically to the work and the projects covered by that grant. Some of the money presently in our holdings will be carried forward and spent as the grant work is completed. We rely on donations and memberships to keep our “lights on” and to fund our day-to-day operations.

The Board of HHLT thanks Rob for the work done to keep our financial house in order.

Resolution # 5 -AGM 2025

Resolved that the 2024 audited financial statements of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust as presented to the membership at the 2025 AGM be received for information.

Motion – Rob Seconded – Ralph Passed

Resolution # 6-AGM 2025

Resolved that the firm of Hufton Valvano Grover Phillipp (HVGP) be appointed as the HHLT auditors for the 2025 financial year.

Motion – Rob Seconded – Alison Curtis Passed

Resolution # 7 – AGM 2025

Resolved that Joan Duhaime be appointed as Election Chair.

Motion – Mary Lou Seconded – Carolyn Passed

Resolution # 8 – AGM 2025

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

Ralph Baehre –elected to a three-year term

Rob Halupka – elected to a three-year term

Huw Morgan- elected to a three-year term

Motion – Alison Curtis Seconded – Barbara Passed

Resolution # 9 – AGM 2025

Resolved that Joan Duhaime be elected to another three-year term.

Motion – Sheila Seconded – Rob Passed

Resolution # 10 – AGM 2025

Resolved that Rick Smith be elected to the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Motion – Sheila Seconded – Sally

Resolution # 11 – AGM 2025

Resolved that Maggie Neff be elected to the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Motion – Rob Seconded – Ralph Passed

Other Business - none

Motion to Adjourn - Joan