

Sudbury Valley Trustees 69th Annual Meeting
October 6, 2022
Wolbach Farm, Sudbury, MA

Welcome

Karin Paquin, President of the Board of Directors, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. She welcomed SVT members to the meeting and also asked the members of the Board of Directors to raise their hands to be recognized.

In addition, Ms. Paquin welcomed Representative Carmine Gentile who was in attendance and thanked him for the work he does on behalf of the environment.

Report of the Clerk

Peter Martin, SVT Clerk, presented the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting of SVT. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion to approve passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Report of the Treasurer

Lisa Schimmel, SVT Treasurer, thanked the Finance Committee and Michelle Soares Vanslette, SVT Director of Finance and Operations, for their hard work during the past year.

Ms. Schimmel reported that SVT was fortunate to be the beneficiary of several generous bequests during the year, including two bequests of at approximately \$2 million each—two of the largest gifts that SVT has ever received.

Ms. Schimmel also presented slides that summarized SVT's financial positions:

FY 2022 Operating Results (in thousands of dollars)

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Revenue | \$1,680 |
| Expense | <u>\$1,513</u> |
| Net Surplus | \$167 |

FY 2022 Funds for SVT's Mission

| | <i>June 30, 2022</i> |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <u>Operating Funds for a Draw</u> | \$ 10,496,000 |
| <u>Special Purpose Funds (No Draw)</u> | |
| Land Protection | |
| George Meyers Fund | \$ 2,194,000 |
| Revolving Loan Fund | \$ 2,303,000 |
| Morgan High Impact | \$ 472,000 |
| Wolbach Projects | \$ 481,000 |
| Diversity | \$ 147,000 |
| Stabilization | \$ 360,000 |
| Legal Defense | \$ <u>192,000</u> |
| Total Special Purpose Funds | \$ 6,149,000 |
| Grand Total | \$ <u>16,645,000</u> |

Ms. Paquin asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion to approve passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Report of the Governance Committee

On behalf of the Governance Committee, Ms. Paquin presented the slate of nominees for re-election to the Board of Directors.

Nominees for re-election to another five-year term on the Board of Directors:

- Paul Bakstran, *Berlin*
- Steve Correia, *Wayland*
- Sean Fair, *Wayland*
- Ruth Kennedy Sudduth, *Stow*
- Bruce Osterling, *Bedford*
- Karin Paquin, *Marlborough*

Ms. Paquin asked for a motion to approve the slate of nominees as presented. A motion was made and seconded. The motion to approve the slate passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Ms. Paquin then presented a list of Board Officers who were elected in 2021:

- President: Karin Paquin, *Marlborough*
- Vice President: Paul Bakstran, *Berlin*
- Treasurer: Lisa Schimmel, *Wayland*
- Clerk: Peter Martin, *Northborough*
- Assistant Treasurer: Lisa Vernegaard, *Maynard*
- Assistant Clerk: Open

She reminded the gathering that we amended our Bylaws at the 2021 Annual Meeting to lengthen the terms of officers from one to two years, which means the current officers will hold their positions for another year. The Assistant Clerk position is open, however, due to a resignation. Ms. Paquin asked anyone who is interested in serving to notify an SVT staff member.

At 6:45, Ms. Paquin asked for a motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Annual Conservation Awards

Ms. Paquin handed over to Ms. Vernegaard, who announced it was time for the SVT Staff to present the Annual Conservation Awards.

Dan Stimson, Assistant Director of Stewardship, presented the following awards:

- Youth Steward Awards went to Kristen Bestavros of Wayland, Thomas Creavin of Wayland, and Walker Fryling of Sudbury.
- 2022 Steward of the Land Award: Shelley Trucksis of Wayland, who serves as Preserve Steward at Hamlen Woods and Mainstone Farm and also assists with other Stewardship projects.

Debbie Pullen, Program and Events Manager, presented the 2022 Morgan Volunteer of the Year Award to Neela de Zoysa of Sudbury, who leads many programs for SVT and is also a member of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee.

Christa Collins, Director of Land Protection, presented the final two awards via a recorded video presentation. Christa was unable to attend in person due to illness.

- 2022 Lewis Conservation Award: Bill Taylor of Upton, Chair of the Upton Open Space Committee who has played key roles in projects that have conserved over 300 acres in Upton. He is also president of the Friends of Upton State Forest group that presents interpretive programs and guided walks; a member of Upton's Land Stewardship Committee that works with volunteers to build local hiking trails; and a member of Upton's Green Community Committee that led efforts to reduce Upton's energy use.
- 2022 Distinguished Public Service Award: Carolyn MacDonald of Berlin, Chair of the Berlin Conservation Commission, who played a pivotal role in the protection of the 100-acre Horseshoe Pond property on Mount Pisgah. She also represents the commission on the Community Preservation Act Committee and sits on the Upton Planning Board.

FY2022 Year in Review

Next, Ms. Vernegaard provided a recap of SVT's work during Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022). She emphasized many successes in Land Protection, Stewardship, and Community Engagement.

Keynote

Mr. Stimson and Ms. Collins (via Zoom) then returned to give the keynote presentation on two recent SVT projects. Mr. Stimson focused on SVT's efforts—in collaboration with the Metrowest Conservation Alliance—to identify the unprotected lands in the SVT area that are most essential to protect because of their natural services, their ability to support wildlife biodiversity, their importance to environmental justice, and their value as farmland. One result of this work is an online Story Map that area conservationists can use to pinpoint the lands that are the most essential to protect, based on the factors that are most important to their communities. The Story Map will soon be available on the SVT website.

Ms. Collins then described the Value of Nature's Services toolkit that was developed by working group of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (MLTC) under her leadership. The toolkit is designed to help municipal officials—who must weigh competing needs for local tax dollars--understand the importance of investing in land conservation because of the many economic values that nature provides, such as clean water, flood mitigation, and climate change mitigation. The toolkit is available on the MLTC website.

Tribute

Ms. Vernegaard concluded with a tribute to Ms. Collins, who is retiring after 20 years at SVT. Through a slide-show presentation, she highlighted many of the Land Protection successes that SVT has enjoyed during Ms. Collins' tenure.

State Representative Carmine A. Gentile was also on hand to present Ms. Collins with a commendation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Signed by Representative Gentile as well as Speaker of the House Ronald Mariano, the commendation thanked Ms. Collins for her 20 years of work at SVT to protect the region's extraordinary natural areas and farmland.

Ms. Collins then thanked everyone (via Zoom) for their kind words and also thanked the many partners and staff members she has worked with over the years.

The meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m.