

33rd Annual Meeting & Celebration

Stowe Land Trust

Sunday, September 13, 2020 | 1:00pm - 5:00pm



Stowe Land Trust Business Meeting

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Welcome & Introductions — Walter Frame, Chair

Approval of 2019 Meeting Minutes

Bylaw Amendment

Financial Presentation—David Wilkens, Vice Chair & Treasurer

Election of Directors—Proposed Slate:

- Jason Slocum (1st term)
- Tom Sweet (1st term)
- Jessica Laporte (1st term)
- Beth Bradford (2nd term)
- Amy Stewart (2nd term)
- Cliff Borden (3rd term)
- Sam Gaines (3rd term)
- Walt Looney (3rd term)

Volunteer Recognition

Dave Hosmer

Guest Speaker

Natasha Duart

Director of the Composting Association of Vermont

Outings & Activities

3:00pm– 5:00pm

Small group activities and outings on SLT conserved land.

Please check your email for details about the outing or activity you signed up for.

Thank you for coming!

Stowe Land Trust's 32nd Annual Meeting Minutes

Bryant Barn on Tamarack Road, Stowe

September 22, 2019

Welcome

Chair, Walter Frame, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Walt thanked Dave Wilkens and Molly Pindell for hosting the event. He thanked Stowe Land Trust's Directors Emeriti, current and former board members, and all of Stowe Land Trust's partners, volunteers and members for their commitment to conservation. He extended a special thanks to staff members Kristen Sharpless, Executive Director, Metz Anderson, Operations Manager, and Elisabeth Fenn, Conservation Program Coordinator, for handling their extra hard workload this year with aplomb. He shared SLT's 2019 successes, of which there were many, and thanked board members, volunteers and staff for their dedication. Walt shared what a typical day at the office might look like and congratulated everyone on successfully completing SLT's largest conservation project to date: the Brownsville-Story Ridge Forest. *Applause.*

Executive Director, Kristen Sharpless, thanked everyone for attending and coming together to celebrate their collective accomplishments over the past year. She shared the concept that our geography and idea of conservation for our community is expanding. Next month, 109 acres of land located in the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor will be conserved, an important step in maintaining the connection between the Worcester and Green mountains for wildlife. She thanked SLT's partners, the Vermont Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy for their part in the catalyst campaign fundraising efforts, raising \$500,000 to protect three properties: 63 acres owned by Chris Curtis and Tari Swenson, 10 acres owned by the Lackey family and a donated easement on 278 acres owned by Eric and Dale Smeltzer. SLT is very appreciative of everyone's efforts and these have expanded our definition of community. Kristen thanked everyone for their hard work on the Brownsville-Story Ridge Forest project and expressed her excitement at having exceeded the goal of 750 donations to protect 750 acres of what is now new state forest. Collectively, we will have conserved nearly 3,000 acres of land and invested more than \$10 million in conservation this year. Thanks to all of you, over 50% of the Worcester Mountain range will be protected and is something we can all be very proud of. *Applause.* She reminded everyone that SLT's commitment to taking care of the land only just begins when the contract has been signed. She highlighted the important work of SLT's Conservation Program Coordinator, Elisabeth Fenn, and all the volunteers who steward the land.

Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

Chair, Walter Frame, asked for member participation to approve the 2018 Annual Meeting. There were no comments or corrections to the minutes. Jed Lipsky made a motion to approve the 2018 minutes as presented. Gerry Griffin seconded the motion. All in favor. The minutes were passed unanimously.

Financial Presentation

Vice Chair and Treasurer, David Wilkens, presented the F Y'18 financial reports as of September 30, 2018. Dave introduced the Board and Emeriti members who serve on SLT's Finance Committee: Amy Stewart, Sam Gaines, Walter Frame, and John Merrill. The Committee assists with developing the annual budget, annual financial review, filing the IRS Form 990 and advising on SLT's investments. Dave presented the balance sheet and statement of activities with previous year comparisons. He explained the sizable gain in net assets was primarily due to a change in cash due to fundraising for the Hunger Mountain Headwaters and Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor projects. SLT's expenses were also under budget in FY18. Other major

Stowe Land Trust's 32nd Annual Meeting Minutes

Bryant Barn on Tamarack Road, Stowe

September 22, 2019

gains in net assets were in investments due to board designations to the Stewardship Endowment which SLT continues to build. He invited anyone to visit www.stowelandtrust.org for the full Form 990 and financial review report.

Election of Officers and Directors Chair, Walter Frame, presented the slate of renewing directors for appointment: Doren Dolan, Jesse Goldfine, Meg Kauffman, Darsey Moon and Ryan Percy. He introduced the two new directors for appointment: Jason McLean and Kerry Sedutto. Jed Lipsky made a motion to accept the slate of renewing and new board members. Gerry Griffin seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously. Walt explained that each director has a 3-year term with a 3-term limit. He expressed his appreciation for the incredibly hard working and dedicated Stowe Land Trust Board of Directors and extended a heartfelt thanks to the four directors terming off this year: Mike Haynes, Nancy Krakower, Bunny Merrill and Brian Mullin. *Applause.*

Recognition

Executive Director, Kristen Sharpless, and Fundraising Committee Chair, Chess Brownell, presented the volunteer of the year awards. This year's awards went to the five community members who served on the Brownsville Forest project fundraising committee: Drew Clymer, Liz Lackey, Peggy Smith, Rich Smith and Laura Walker. She thanked them for their tireless efforts to help Stowe Land Trust protect the Brownsville Forest property. *Applause.*

Guest Speaker | Dr. Aron Steward: *The Healing Power of Nature*

Kristen introduced guest speaker Dr. Aron Steward. Dr. Steward, a psychologist with expertise in violence prevention, health & wellness and alternative therapies, thanked everyone for inviting her to share her story. She spoke about nature's ability to heal and inspire. Dr. Steward's story came from working with youth at Vermont's Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center. Raised on a small farm in Plainfield, VT, Dr. Steward gained valuable experience working in inner cities in her early adult life and learned how effective alternative therapies can be in the healing process. When she returned to VT to take a position at the Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, she found there were no alternative therapy services available for the youth. She worked quickly to build partnerships in the community to bring tools to the center and once these tools were in place, both the children and the staff became stronger and more open with one another. After meeting Kristen while attending the Vermont Leadership Institute, Aron invited Kristen to present to the youth about birds. During her visit Kristen had brought with her a bird feeder. Aron said the transformation was incredible. The children were mesmerized by watching the birds visit the bird feeder and those who had previously been disinterested in everything were now working to gain outside privileges so they could fill the bird feeder. The children responded amazingly well and were soon helping staff plant bird-friendly perennial gardens on the property that spring. She explained that for the children, this meant everything. She closed by asking everyone to help those that have been harmed repeatedly as children for if we do not, the next generation of children will surely suffer and the pattern will continue. The only tools needed are humanity, freedom and nature. *Applause and a standing ovation.*

Proposed amendment to Bylaws for approval by the Membership at Annual Meeting on September 13, 2020:

- Amend Article IV Board of Directors Section 15. **Meetings by Telecommunications Devices** of the Bylaws as follows:

Delete the words "...who is temporarily incapacitated or residing temporarily outside of Stowe," in the first sentence of Section 15.

Section 9. Annual and Regular Meetings. The Board of Directors shall hold an annual meeting immediately following the annual meeting of the membership in order to elect Officers. The Board of Directors shall hold at least six (6) regularly scheduled meetings during the calendar year.

Section 10. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Chairperson of the Board of Directors, or by a request in writing signed by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the Board members.

Section 11. Action Without a Meeting. Any action by the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if all Directors individually consent in writing to the action. Such written consent shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Directors. Written consent means and shall require either: (a) the Director's original signature; or (b) the Director's facsimile signature, provided that the original of the facsimile signature is delivered to the Corporation for inclusion in the minutes filed with the corporate records.

Section 12. Executive Session. At any meeting of the Board of Directors, a majority of Board members present may vote to go into closed executive session in order to consider matters of a sensitive or confidential nature.

Section 13. Notice. Not less than thirty (30) days prior to each annual meeting of the Board of Directors, and not less than five (5) days prior to each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors, and not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to each special meeting of the Board of Directors, written notice, setting forth the date, time, place and general nature of the business to be discussed, shall be mailed, postage paid or emailed to all Directors at their addresses set forth in the records of the Corporation.

Section 14. Quorum and Voting. At any meeting of the Board of Directors, the presence of a majority (at least 51%) of the then current Directors shall constitute a quorum. Representation by proxy shall not be permitted. Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, a majority vote of those persons actually present at a meeting at which there is a quorum shall prevail on all matters.

Section 15. Meeting by Telecommunications Devices. Any member of the Board of Directors or any member of a committee designated by the Board ~~who is temporarily incapacitated or residing temporarily outside of Stowe,~~ may participate in a meeting of the Board or committee by means of a conference telephone or similar telecommunications device by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time. Such participation shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

Commented [MA1]: Explanation of the proposed amendment:
Under the current Bylaws, Directors can only attend meetings by telephone conference call or video conferencing (e.g., Zoom) if they are "...temporarily incapacitated or residing temporarily outside of Stowe..." The proposed amendment eliminates these conditions, in order to allow remote attendance for any reason.

Stowe Land Trust
Annual Financial Report

Balance Sheet			
	FY 2019	FY 2018	CHANGE
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	1,322,470	460,223	862,247
Prepaid expenses and other assets	21,930	33,756	(11,826)
Investments-includes board desig.	1,056,243	966,490	89,753
Land	2,125,040	2,125,040	-
Land and building improvements	95,449	99,965	(4,516)
TOTAL ASSETS	4,621,132	3,685,474	935,658
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	3,189	4,359	(1,170)
Accrued wages and liabilities	31,003	20,371	10,632
TOTAL LIABILITIES	34,192	24,730	9,462
NET ASSETS			
Undesignated	500,635	366,402	134,233
Board-designated	631,105	535,500	95,605
With donor restrictions	3,455,200	2,758,842	696,358
TOTAL NET ASSETS	4,586,940	3,660,744	926,196
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	4,621,132	3,685,474	935,658

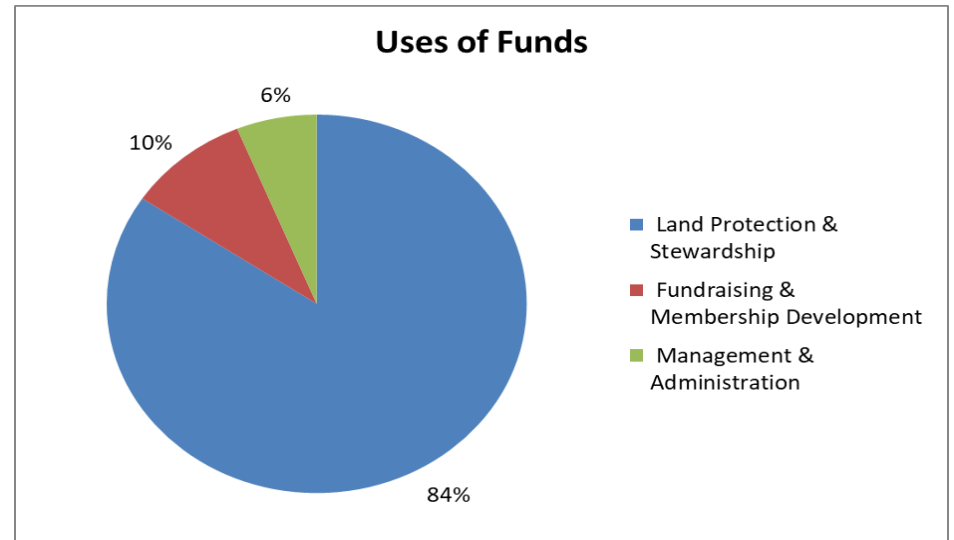
Note: Stowe Land Trust completes an annual review of all financial data.
Our financial review and our IRS Form 990 is available on our website or by request.

Stowe Land Trust
Annual Financial Report

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES			
	FY 2019	FY 2018	CHANGE
INCOME			
Grants & contributions	6,702,376	583,566	6,118,810
Other revenues	615	718	(103)
Events	45,607	44,602	1,005
Investment return	155,355	50,931	104,424
Total Support and Revenue	6,903,953	679,817	6,224,136
EXPENSES			
Land protection & Stewardship	5,825,173	208,748	5,616,425
Fundraising & Membership	92,115	63,213	28,902
Management & General	60,469	71,727	(11,258)
Total Expenses	5,977,757	343,688	5,634,069
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	926,196	336,129	590,067

INVESTMENTS, MARKET VALUE			
	FY 2019	FY 2018	CHANGE
Beginning balance	966,490	794,163	172,327
Contributions/other changes	68,145	165,948	(97,803)
Net realized gain (loss)	8,137	104	8,033
Net unrealized gain (loss)	13,471	6,275	7,196
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	1,056,243	966,490	89,753

GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS				
	FY 2019		FY 2018	
	Amount	Donors	Amount	Donors
Membership	\$245,888	614	\$220,958	554
Grants & Corporate	\$110,269		\$77,016	
Contributions to projects	\$6,346,219		\$285,592	
TOTAL GRANTS & CONT.	\$6,702,376		\$583,566	



For display purposes, chart does not include \$5M contribution made for the conservation of Brownsville-Story Ridge Forest.

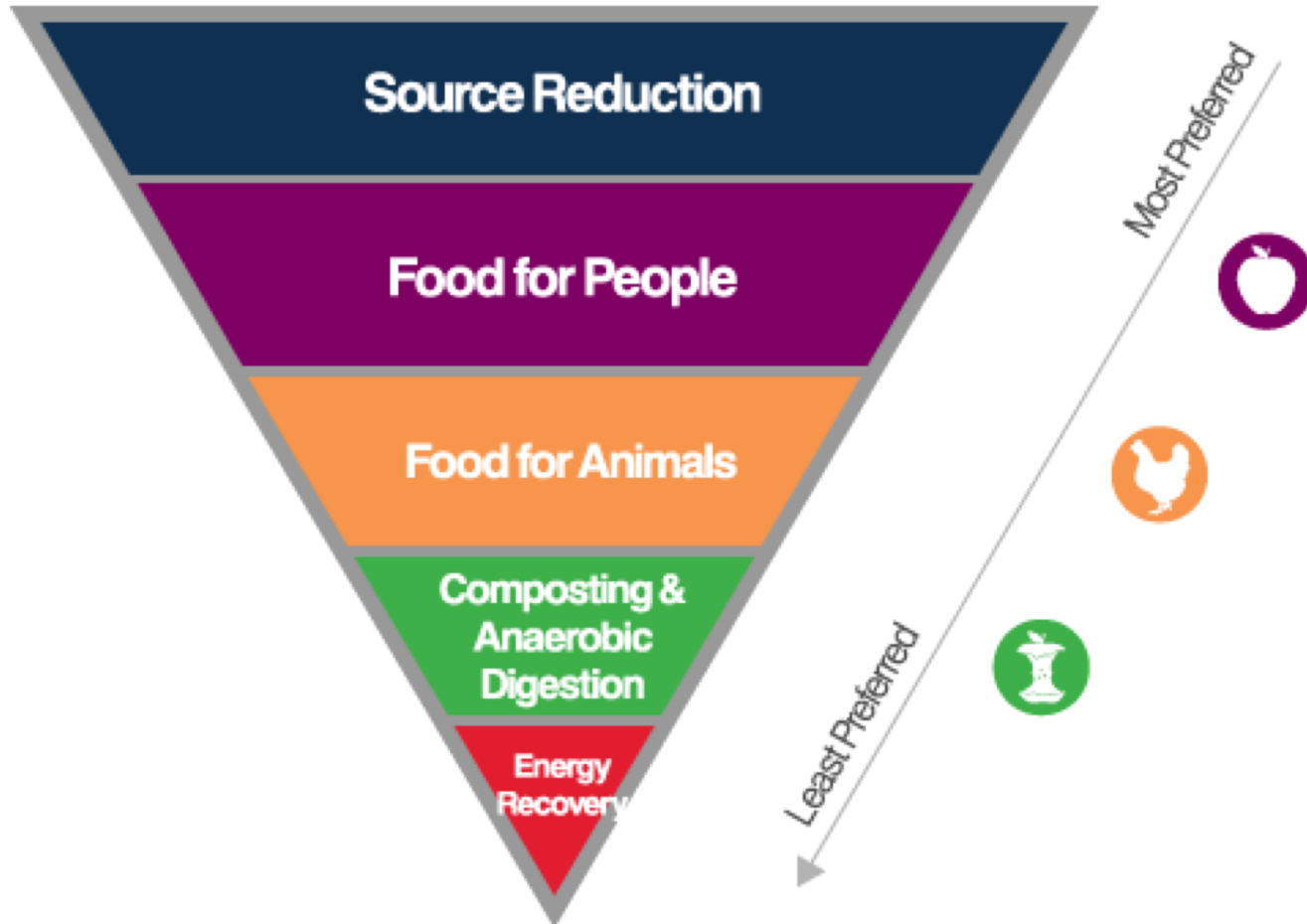


- **Founded in 2002**
- ***We believe** that increasing the use of compost in our communities will improve soil health, water quality, and our resilience to climate change.*
- **Mission:**
 - Advance production and use of compost as vital to soil health through practices that contribute to water quality, plant vigor, and environmental resilience.
 - Demonstrate the value of compost through education, policy, outreach, and partnerships to reduce waste, capture energy, and create jobs.
- **501c3** - cooperative, stakeholder driven approach in our work.

Vermont's Universal Recycling Law (Act 148)

- Passed unanimously in 2012
- Effectively bans from the landfill:
 - “Blue Bin” recyclables
 - Leaf and yard debris, clean wood
 - Food scraps (organic compostable kitchen waste)
- Why?
 - Saves landfill space
 - Reduces greenhouse gas emissions
 - Reducing food waste saves resources
 - Food donation has nearly tripled since the law was passed.
- The bans send clear signals to both the private and public sector that materials will be available, which provides an incentive to invest in infrastructure needed to meet the demand.

Vermont Food Recovery Hierarchy



Residents

- Bring your food scraps to a local food waste collection site
- Hire a hauler
- Join or start a community composting site
- Compost in your backyard.

Businesses

- Separate your food waste into collection carts/dumpsters for haulers
- Donate edible food
- Educate your staff
- Look for a community composting site near you
- Consider composting on site

If Wildlife Becomes an Issue

- Have an adequate amount of carbon
- Always cover food scraps with carbon or soil
- Cover with wood shavings or a little bit of lime to deter fruit flies & wildlife (rodents, bears)
- Line bottoms of compost bins with wire mesh
- Strictly follow “composting food scraps” BMPs & eliminate any meat while bears are a concern
- Build an enclosure around the compost area, if needed

Resources

- vtfoodcycle.com
- [FoodScrapHaulersSTATEWIDELIST.pdf \(DEC\)](#)
- VTrecycles.com
- 802recycles.com

Contact Information:

Natasha Duarte, Director

CompostingVermont.org

802-373-6499

Natasha@CompostingVermont.org