

North Carolina Coastal Land Trust Annual Meeting Minutes, September 25, 2021  
Via Zoom

Approximately 45 members and guests attended the Annual Meeting and Celebration of the Coastal Land Trust held via Zoom, and at 5:00 p.m., Masonboro Sound played live music for guests as they gathered on the Zoom videoconferencing platform.

At 5:05 p.m., Ms. Stephanie Borrett, North Carolina Coastal Land Trust's Director of Donor Relations, welcomed guests, thanked all for attending, explained the Zoom meeting details, and recognized and thanked the Annual Meeting and Celebration sponsors, Tidewater Sponsors, and Coastal Steward Sponsors.

Annual Meeting and Celebration sponsors thanked were as follows:

Tidewater Level Sponsors:

Cochran Harris Architecture  
Cyndi and Ronnie McNeill  
MCO Transport Inc.  
Mossy Oak Properties Land and Farms Realty  
Murchison, Taylor & Gibson, PLLC  
Point Clan  
Resource Management Service LLC  
Restoration Systems LLC

Coastal Steward Level Sponsors:

Melanie Allen  
Carol Sue Blueberry Farm  
Corbett Industries, Inc.  
ECS Southeast, LLP  
Lee and John Leidy  
John and Susie Lucey  
Kyle McIntyre  
McKim & Creed  
Donna and Tom Moffitt  
The Oleander Company Inc.  
Owens Family, LLC

At 5:10 p.m., President Laurie King welcomed all attending (by Zoom) from the entrance to Old Town, Brunswick County, called the official portion of the meeting to order, and asked for approval of Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on September 26, 2020. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Harrison Marks, seconded by Ms. Alysson Troffer, and approved unanimously via a membership poll on the Zoom platform.

Outgoing Directors Melanie Allen, Maggie Ashburn, Nancy Bray, Sam Cook, Hannah Holt, Robert Perry, and Lovay Wallace-Singleton were thanked and recognized for their dedication and service to the Coastal Land Trust. Ms. King presented the proposed slate of nominees for election (or re-election) to

the Board of Directors for 3-year terms: Harrison Marks, Winston-Salem; Yoshi Newman, Greenville; Stan Riggs, Greenville; and Robert Wells, Kitty Hawk. Ms. Camilla Herlevich made a motion to accept the slate of proposed nominees, Ms. Linda Pearsall seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously with one abstention via a membership poll on the Zoom platform.

Ms. King introduced special guest Tom Earnhardt, attorney, photographer, author of three books, avid and renowned naturalist, recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award, a member of the North Caroliniana Society, and producer, writer, and host of the PBS series “Exploring North Carolina” on UNC-TV. Mr. Earnhardt thanked Executive Director, Mr. Walker Golder, for the invitation to speak and provided the inspiring keynote address recognizing the work of the Coastal Land Trust in conserving more than 80,000 acres land and special habitats in North Carolina’s unique and significant coastal plain, which provide critical infrastructure for the state and its wildlife.

Ms. Borrett extended her gratitude to Mr. Earnhardt for his heartfelt address and the extraordinary photography included in his presentation. Ms. Borrett then introduced Walker Golder, North Carolina Coastal Land Trust’s Executive Director, a native of the southern North Carolina coast, who completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at UNC-Wilmington and joined the Coastal Land Trust from an outstanding career with National Audubon Society.

Mr. Golder thanked Mr. Earnhardt for his inspiring address, Mr. Nelson McRae for offering to host the Annual Celebration at Old Town (though due to Covid concerns, the Annual Celebration was being celebrated as a virtual event), and all who supported the Coastal Land Trust’s Your Land Campaign. Mr. Walker shared that it had been a super year for conserving land! Dr. and Mrs. Stan Riggs donated a second conservation easement on another portion of their Pitt County property in December; in February, the Coastal Land Trust purchased 355 acres of property to expand its Bern Preserve to 900 acres; the purchase of 1,048 acres in the heart of Dollison’s Swamp along the Cape Fear was completed in June – coined as the “Coastal Land Trust’s own Jurassic Park” by Ms. Janice Allen, the Coastal Land Trust’s Director of Land Protection; the purchase of Hutaff Island - with more than 2.5 miles of pristine beach front along the Atlantic Ocean – was completed in July; the purchase of 91 acres along the Waccamaw River adjoining other property the Coastal Land Trust owns along the Waccamaw – was also completed in July; and in August, the Coastal Land Trust purchased the last parcel at Springer’s Point, on Ocracoke Island, to complete its Springer’s Point Preserve, now 132 acres! The new acquisitions this fiscal year collectively permanently conserve more than 2,160 acres. The Coastal Land Trust is also fortunate to have received generous support for the restoration of the historic Reaves Chapel in Navassa, which is slated to begin next month.

Mr. Golder introduced Ms. Janice Allen, the Coastal Land Trust’s Director of Land Protection, who provided a “sneak peek” at some of the Coastal Land Trust’s upcoming land protection projects, which include a 105-acre parcel along Brice’s Creek to expand the Coastal Land Trust’s Brice’s Creek Preserve in Craven County; conservation easements to be donated by Outer Banks Conservationists, Inc. on portions of the historic Island Farm on Roanoke Island and parcels buffering the Currituck Lighthouse Compound in the Village of Corolla; approximately 800 acres along the Chowan River and Keel’s Creek in Bertie and Hertford Counties; approximately 500 acres having more than a mile of waterfront along the Chowan River in Bertie County - thanks to the efforts of five sets of land owners and the Coastal Land Trust; 350 acres along two miles of Hoggard’s Run, a tributary of the Cashie River, in Bertie

County; and an approximately 270-acre parcel having a mile of frontage along the Cape Fear River in Bladen County – the site of the only documented Swallow-tailed Kite nest in North Carolina.

Mr. Golder thanked Ms. Allen for the sneak preview and explained that each dollar that is contributed to the Coastal Land Trust, is leveraged to raise \$4 in funding. The land the Coastal Land Trust saves today is a legacy for future generations. Mr. Golder thanked Masonboro Sound for the lovely music provided for the Annual Celebration; Coastal Land Trust staff members, Ms. Stephanie Borrett, Ms. Beth Steelman, Ms. Laura Wilson, and Ms. Jesica Blake for the organization and production of the Annual Celebration; outgoing Directors for their service; newly elected Directors for their dedication to the Coastal Land Trust; and the new Executive Committee comprised of Ms. Laurie King, President; Mr. Hal Kitchin, Vice President; Mr. Skip Morgan, Vice President/Secretary; and Mr. Nick Parker, Treasurer. Mr. Golder gave a special thanks to Ms. Linda Murchison for serving as the Interim Executive Director upon the retirement of founder and former Executive Director, Camilla Herlevich. Mr. Golder then asked Ms. Herlevich to lead the state toast.

Ms. King closed the meeting by thanking Mr. Earnhardt for introducing her to the poetry of Wendell Berry, everyone in attendance for their support, and Masonboro Sound, which then played a final song to close the Annual Celebration.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.