

North Carolina Coastal Land Trust Annual Meeting Minutes
4:00 – 7:00 p.m. on September 24, 2022
Old Town, 2460 River Rd. SE, Winnabow, N. C.

Approximately 100 members and guests attended the Annual Meeting and Celebration of North Carolina Coastal Land Trust held at Old Town in Winnabow, Brunswick County, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on September 24, 2022. Masonboro Sound played live music for guests as they gathered for dinner and following the business portion of the meeting.

At 5:15 p.m., Mr. Eric Vreeland, North Carolina Coastal Land Trust's Director of Strategic Advancement, welcomed guests, thanked all for attending the Annual Meeting and Celebration of 30 years of the Coastal Land Trust, and recognized and thanked Mr. Nelson MacRae for graciously hosting the Annual Meeting and Celebration at Old Town.

The following Annual Meeting and Celebration sponsors were recognized and thanked:

Presenting Sponsor:

Wells Fargo

Tidewater Sponsors

MCO Transport

Sunshine Children's Dentistry

Coastal Stewards

Campbell Global

Carol Sue Blueberry Farm

Cothran Harris Architecture

Mabel & Hal Kitchin

The Oleander Company, Inc.

Friends

Janice & Dave Allen

Kitty Brunjes

Louise & Steve Coggins

Pam & Jeff Duncan

Valerie Gardner

Donna & Tom Moffitt

Linda & Skip Morgan

Caroline & Charles Neal

The Rev. Hannah Vaughan and Dr. Norm Robinson

Ann & Bland Simpson

Cheryl & Bryan Smith

Liling & Doug Warren

Rosemary & Smedes York

At 5:20 p.m., President Laurie King welcomed all attending, thanked Mr. Nelson MacRae and the Coastal Land Trust for conserving the beautiful Old Town property and hosting the Annual Meeting and Celebration, thanked all of the generous Presenting and Tidewater Sponsors, the Coastal Stewards and Friends, and all in attendance, and called the official portion of the meeting to order.

Ms. King recognized and thanked the outgoing Directors Mr. Miles Coxe, Mr. Tommy Hughes, and Ms. Linda Murchison, for their dedication and service to the Coastal Land Trust. Ms. King presented the following proposed slate of nominees for election (or re-election) to the Board of Directors for 3-year terms beginning October 1, 2022: Ms. Merrie Jo Alcoke, New Bern; Mr. Bernest Hewett, Brunswick County; Ms. Laurie King, Wilmington; Mr. Henry Kitchin, Wilmington; Ms. Ann Simpson, Chapel Hill; and Ms. Mary Tillery, Raleigh. Ms. Camilla Herlevich made a motion to accept the slate of proposed nominees, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Ms. King introduced Ms. Jesica Blake, North Carolina Coastal Land Trust's Associate Director and Director of Stewardship and Community Conservation, who thanked Ms. King for her service as President and presented Ms. King with a framed photograph of the immense live oak at Coastal Land Trust's Springer's Point Preserve by photographer Michael Halminski, of Waves, N. C. Ms. Blake also recognized Mr. Nelson MacRae for protecting the lovely Old Town property and thanked all for attending the 30th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting. Following Ms. Blake's introduction of Mr. Cam MacRae, the son of Mr. Nelson MacRae, Cam spoke of the significance of Old Town to him and his family and his gratitude that the family and the Coastal Land Trust permanently conserved this special property.

Ms. Blake then reflected on 30 years of North Carolina Coastal Land Trust's accomplishments - from its first project conserving 11 acres in New Hanover County to its largest conservation acquisition – a conservation easement on 6, 442 acres in Brunswick County. The permanent conservation of Old Town through a conservation easement on 765 acres donated by the MacRae family in 1999 was recognized as the catalyst for protecting more than 15,000 acres along the Cape Fear River by the Coastal Land Trust. Ms. Camilla Herlevich was acknowledged as “the original author in the story” and founder of the Coastal Land Trust in 1992. A brief overview of the Coastal Land Trust's conservation acquisitions during this fiscal year was provided and included the purchase and transfer of 265 acres in Bladen County along the Cape Fear River to the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission; the purchase of 766 acres along three miles of the Chowan River and seven miles of Keel's Creek in Bertie and Hertford Counties; the transfer of 350 acres to the U. S. Forest Service to expand the Croatan National Forest; the permanent protection of Island Farm on Roanoke Island and four Currituck Lighthouse buffer parcels in historic Corolla Village – all owned by the Outer Banks Conservationists, Inc. – with conservation easements; the purchase of 105 acres along Brice's Creek, in Craven County to expand the Coastal Land Trust's Brice's Creek Preserve, and the meticulous ongoing restoration of the historic Reaves Chapel, in Navassa. Ms. Blake concluded her comments with assurance that the Coastal Land Trust would continue its important work of “saving the lands you love at the coast” particularly in light of notice this week that \$8M in grant requests recently submitted by Land Protection Specialist Janice Allen had all been approved. Ms. Blake then introduced the Coastal Land Trust staff in attendance.

Mr. Vreeland introduced Ms. Ann Simpson and Mr. Bland Simpson, the keynote speakers, and provided a brief summary of a few of their many individual and collective accomplishments. Ms. Simpson explained that she and Mr. Simpson have been involved with the Coastal Land Trust since its inception and share a deep respect for the organization, its important work, Ms. Herlevich, the staff, the conservation projects completed, and those in progress. Mr. Simpson thanked Mr. Vreeland for the invitation to speak during the Annual Meeting and Celebration, complimented the work of the Coastal Land Trust in conserving more than 84,000 acres along North Carolina's unique coast, and shared an excerpt from his recent book, Land of Water, discussing the Coastal Land Trust's land conservation work along the Waccamaw River, including Ms. Simpson's presentation of the deed from North

Carolina Coastal Land Trust to the State of North Carolina for a 197-acre portion of the Waccamaw property conserved by the Coastal Land Trust to expand the Lake Waccamaw State Park by 10 percent.

For the park . . . for the people of North Carolina . . . this was an unalloyed wonderful day.
All the more so considering what else the Coastal Land Trust had done and was yet to do . . .
In short, beyond the gift to the park, the Coastal Land Trust has protected over 4,000 acres of natural lands here and increased a magnificent wildlife corridor.

Ms. King closed the meeting by thanking Mr. and Mrs. Simpson for their outstanding keynote address and poignant reflection on the work of the Coastal Land Trust, Masonboro Sound members Matt Thuman, Jim Durham, Shane Lippard, and Perry Hewlett, and all in attendance. Masonboro Sound then treated guests to their outstanding acoustic music to conclude the Annual Celebration.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.