

North Carolina Coastal Land Trust Annual Meeting Minutes
4:00 – 7:00 p.m. on October 7, 2023
Goose Landing, 9259 Kendall Chapel Road SE, Brunswick County, N. C.

Approximately 70 members and guests attended the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust Annual Meeting and Celebration held at Goose Landing in Brunswick County, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on October 7, 2023. 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. Harrison Marks, Executive Director, welcomed guests, thanked all for attending the Annual Meeting and Celebration, and recognized and thanked Mr. Peter Davis for graciously hosting the Annual Meeting and Celebration at Goose Landing, which was placed under conservation easement sixteen years ago. The following Annual Meeting and Celebration sponsors were recognized and thanked:

Champion Sponsor

McGuire Woods LLP

Tidewater Sponsors

Davey Resource Group

Cyndi McNeill

John & Joanie Preyer

Resource Management Service, LLC

Sunshine Children's Dentistry

Coastal Stewards

Kitty Brunes

Carol Sue Blueberry Farm

Hal & Mabel Kitchin

Kyle McIntyre

The Oleander Company

Norm Robinson & Hannah Vaughn

Ann & Bland Simpson

Friends

Balding Design Build

Allen & Barbara Dearry

Jeff & Pam Duncan

Valerie Gardner

Camilla Herlevich & Jim Brier

International Paper

Marty & Cynthia Lanier

Lee & John Leidy

Harrison & Suzie Marks

Donna & Tom Moffitt

Nature Connect

Amy & Clint North

Laurence & Rebekah Roth

Cheryl & Bryan Smith

Doug & Liling Warren

Pam Watkins

Rosemary & Smedes York

Mr. Marks expressed the importance of the Coastal Land Trust's volunteer Board of Directors to the health of the organization and explained that one purpose of the Annual Meeting and Celebration is for the members to elect directors. Mr. Marks then introduced Mr. Hal Kitchin, the President of the Board of Directors, to lead the business portion of the meeting.

At 5:30 p.m., President Hal Kitchin welcomed and thanked all for attending, thanked Mr. Peter Davis for hosting the Annual Meeting and Celebration on his lovely property, and thanked all of the event sponsors. Mr. Kitchin explained that the first order of business was to call the meeting to order and approve the minutes of the 2021 and 2022 annual meetings. Ms. Laurie King made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2021 and 2022 annual meetings, which was seconded by Ms. Camilla Herlevich and unanimously approved by the members.

Mr. Kitchin explained that because North Carolina Coastal Land Trust is a member-driven nonprofit corporation, it is the duty of the members to select and elect the Board of Directors. Mr. Kitchin recognized the Board members in attendance, which included Mr. Bob Emory, of New Bern, Ms. Laurie King, of Wilmington, Ms. Ann Simpson, of Chapel Hill, and Ms. Cheryl Smith, of Pine Knoll Shores. Mr. Kitchin then recognized and thanked the outgoing members of the Board of Directors, namely, Ms. Linda Pearsall, Ms. Cheryl Smith, and Mr. George Wood. Mr. Kitchin presented the proposed slate of nominees for re-election or election to the Board of Directors for 3-year terms beginning October 1, 2023: Ms. Hannah Holt, Mr. Nick Parker, Mr. Chad Pearson, and Mrs. Pam Watkins, all of Wilmington; Mr. Bob Emory, of New Bern; and Mr. Brian Rubino, of Kitty Hawk. Ms. Cheryl Smith made a motion to accept the slate of proposed nominees, which was seconded by Ms. Camilla Herlevich and unanimously approved. Mr. Kitchin communicated how delighted he is to have Mr. Harrison Marks, who previously served on the Board of Directors, serving as Executive Director of the Coastal Land Trust. Mr. Kitchin assured the members that the mission of the Coastal Land Trust is being successfully carried out by Harrison and his team and explained that when members contribute to the Coastal Land Trust, their donations make it possible for Harrison and his team to go out, find money for conservation acquisitions, and conserve lands along our coast. Mr. Kitchin adjourned the business portion of the meeting and invited Mr. Marks to make comments.

Mr. Marks remarked that, after being hired as Executive Director, his first telephone call was to Ms. Camilla Herlevich, the founder and former Executive Director of the Coastal Land Trust. Mr. Marks reflected on Ms. Herlevich's tremendous achievements in starting the organization from scratch in 1992 and the extraordinary accomplishments of the organization under Ms. Herlevich's expert direction and guidance. Mr. Marks recognized the tragic loss of Mrs. Beth Steelman, an active former member of the Board of Directors, a long-standing member of the Coastal Land Trust, a long-time invaluable staff member, and a close friend of our staff and team. This tragic loss has been extremely difficult for our staff and team. Mr. Marks thanked Mr. Ben Steelman for attending the Annual Meeting and Celebration and remembered the vital role Beth played as part of the heart and soul of the organization. Ms. Steelman is, and will continue to be, missed terribly.

Mr. Marks reflected on the accomplishments of the organization during the year, which included the completion of the strategic plan and the acquisition of eight additional properties, including the purchase of an ecologically significant and biologically unique 32-acre Wet Marl Forest tract in Pender County, which lies within the larger Rocky Point Marl Forest State Significant Natural Heritage Area; the acquisition of the Sea Gate Woods Tract II, in Carteret County, a 78-acre non-riverine hardwood forest (a rare wetland community type) adjoining and expanding the Coastal Land Trust's Sea Gate Woods Preserve; the acquisition of the 55.75-acre Jenkins family farm near Aulander, in Bertie County, which was donated by two brothers to fulfill their mother's wish to conserve the property; the purchase of the Chowan/Perry et al. Tracts near Colerain, in Bertie County, which included five contiguous tracts of land containing 421 acres with 1.7 miles of frontage along the Chowan River, and which the Coastal Land Trust then transferred, together with its adjoining 766-acre Keel's Creek Tract (featuring the heart of Cow Island Swamp and having more than 7 miles of frontage along Keel's Creek), to the State of North Carolina - adding almost 1200 acres to the Chowan Swamp Game Land; the purchase of the 1,437-acre Newport River Tract, in Carteret County, the first of three contiguous tracts the Coastal Land Trust plans to

transfer to the North Carolina Coastal Federation to complete a hydrologic restoration project on the property; the purchase of the 17-acre ecologically unique Chowan River Bluffs property near Colerain, in Bertie County, designated by the State Natural Heritage Program (NHP) as the Chowan River Point Comfort Bluffs Natural Heritage Area of exceptional significance (the highest NHP ranking) and hosting 80 to 90-foot bluffs overlooking the Chowan River; the purchase of a 114-acre Trent Riverfront property, in Jones County, which buffers the U.S.M.C. Oak Grove Outlying Landing Field with partial funding provided by U. S. Dept. of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI) grant, making this acquisition the 17th project the Coastal Land Trust has completed in partnership with MCAS Cherry Point to both conserve open space and/or natural habitats and minimize encroachment adjacent to military installations; and the purchase of 402 acres having more than four (4) miles of frontage along the Bay River, Smith Creek, and Newton Creek – all designated as High Quality Waters and/or primary nursery habitat – in Pamlico County, with this property then being transferred by the Coastal Land Trust to the State of North Carolina to be managed by North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission as part of the State’s Goose Creek Game Land. The Coastal Land Trust also continued its restoration of Reaves Chapel, a historic African American church within the National Parks Service’s Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, previously purchased by the Coastal Land Trust to permanently protect this deteriorating landmark. This work, done in coordination with the West Bank/Cedar Hill Foundation, is expected to be completed in 2024.

Mr. Marks then introduced the staff present and recognized all staff for their contributions to the work of the Coastal Land Trust. Mr. Marks closed the meeting reiterating that the Coastal Land Trust is a member organization and thanking all members for their critical role in the success of the organization. Mr. Marks thanked Masonboro Sound members Matt Thuman, Jim Durham, Shane Lippard, and Perry Hewlett, and all in attendance. Masonboro Sound then treated guests to their acoustic music to conclude the Annual Meeting and Celebration.

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