



DELAWARE  
HIGHLANDS  
CONSERVANCY  
CELEBRATE 20 YEARS

**Annual General Meeting Minutes**  
at PPL Lake Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center  
Hawley, PA  
**Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Members Present:** Scott Van Gorder, Greg Belcamino, Eric Davis, Mary Anne Halchak, Nicole Slevin, Linda Gearhart, Brenda Ruello, Mary Sue Price, Grant Genzlinger, Jim and Betsy Brown, Phil Cowan, Nina Daley, Karen Lutz, Michael Geitz, Tony Waldron, Tess Murray, Sue Currier

PENNSYLVANIA  
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**Staff Present:** Simon Knox

**Order**

Michael Geitz called the meeting to order.

Quorum: Simon noted that 92 proxies were received, meaning over 10% of the membership were present, establishing quorum.

NEW YORK  
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**Minutes**

Motion made by Mary Sue and seconded by Greg to approve the minutes from last year's Annual General Meeting on October 18, 2014; the motion carried unanimously.

**Year in Review**

Michael presented the Year in Review report to attendees. Highlights of the year include:

- The investment from the William Penn Foundation, has continued to support, improve and enhance our educational outreach to landowners and the public, and has laid the foundation on several potential large land protection projects that we hope will come to conclusion in the coming years. We are working with additional property owners on the donations of conservations easements, and we hope to report on those at our 2016 AGM.
- Last November, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Conservancy with a special event held at Bethel Woods in Sullivan County, New York. Guests received an anniversary journal, detailing all of our accomplishments over the past twenty years.
- This year, we've also established the River Club to celebrate and recognize investment in the Conservancy. 33 Charter Members have been welcomed into the River Club. You can become a member of the River Club with an annual gift of \$2,500 or more, exclusive of auction purchases.
- We established and awarded the first Vanessa VanGorder Memorial Scholarship, which now joins the annual Barbara Yeaman scholarship.

Conserving our natural heritage and quality of life in partnership  
with landowners and the communities of the Upper Delaware region.

- Current Conservancy staff includes Sue Currier, Executive Director; Amanda Subjin, Stewardship Coordinator; Bethany Keene, Outreach and Development Coordinator; Jennifer Sherwood, Land Protection Coordinator; and Simon Knox, Administrative Coordinator.
- Our Eagle Watch program has grown
- On the Development front, our award-winning Green Lodging Partnership continues to provide funding for us and to educate tourists about our conservation work. We established the Partnership in 2012, and have continued to expand it since then, with 16 participating lodgings in New York and Pennsylvania and more than \$30,000 raised to date in 2015.
- The time has come for us to renew our accreditation. Much of our energies in 2015 were devoted to the accreditation renewal process, and we'll file our application in November, at which time it will be open for public comment. Accreditation assures everyone with whom we do business that we comply with national standards for land trusts as they govern all of our activities.
- In addition, we know that our long term success as an organization will depend on planned gifts, and we're working to strengthen our Legacy Leader program and encourage people to think about the Conservancy in estate planning.

### **Financial Statement**

Eric presented the audited financial statement for 2014 as well as a financial summary of the past seven years. Eric explained the financial summary and highlighted a few key points:

- Grant income has continued to grow, and received a significant boost by the William Penn Foundation in 2014 with the start of a three year grant program
- The Conservancy would like to thank the volunteer professionals who contributed over \$70'000 worth of professional services in 2014.
- In addition to the Annual Gala, the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraising Event helped grow the income earned from Special Events.

Michael added that the 2015 Financials YTD are in a good position.

### **Governance**

Grant noted the resignation of Nicole Slevin from the Board and thanked her for her service and many hours volunteering for the Eagle Watch program.

### **Election of Directors**

Motion made by Michael and seconded by Karen to accept the ballot as outlined on the proxies distributed and reviewed by Grant. Motion carried by those in attendance as well as those present by proxy electing the following individuals to the Conservancy's board of directors:

Scott Van Gorder	to his second term of 3 years
Jeffrey Moore	to his second term of 3 years
Greg Belcamino	to his third term of 3 years

The full list of Board of directors is as follows:

Greg Belcamino	third term expires October 2018
Keith Fitzpatrick	second term expires October 2017
Michael Geitz	second term expires October 2016
Grant Genzlinger	first term expires October 2016
Karen Lutz	first term expires October 2016
Jeffrey Moore	second term expires October 2018
John Ross	second term expires October 2017
Brenda Ruello	first term expires October 2017
Mary Sue Price	first term expires October 2017
Scott VanGorder	first term expires October 2018

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Michael Geitz

Respectfully submitted,

Simon Knox