

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting
American chestnut Land Trust
March 4, 2023**

This meeting was held at the Saint John Vianney Community Center.

Call to Order

President Dave Farr called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on March 4th 2022. He opened by giving the State of ACLT, summarizing that the Land Trust is Accredited, in good economic health, good standing, and it is progressing with the implementation of its mission and its five-year plan.

Reading of the Minutes.

There was a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes which were then approved by voice vote.

Election of Board Officers.

President Farr thanked Suzanne Shelden and Walter Boynton for all the work they have done for the Land Trust. Next, he introduced three new candidates recommended by the board of directors:

- Jose' R. Ballesteros
- Jan Degeneffe
- Darrell Roberts

Next, he provided a list of five members seeking to return on the board:

- Dave Farr
- Cheryl Place
- Richard Aldridge
- Steve Cloak
- Penny Moran

A motion was made to adopt the slate which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Executive Directors Report

Greg Bowen described the work that ACLT is participating in at the national regional and local levels. He emphasized the significance of the County Commissioners decisions to reject the expansions of town centers and Huntingtown Prince Frederick and Lusby which would have had a negative impact on the environment and he noted that ACLT members had advocated strongly for this action. Next, he presented the highlights of the 2019-2023 plan and what had been accomplished. He also reported on the efforts of the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance to envision a future for Southern Maryland that would protect the region's wildlife diversity and promote climate change resilience.

Clara Brill-Carlat, Assistant Land Manager spoke about the science work that she is doing to monitor and address climate change, including macroinvertebrate studies, forest diversity studies, an amphibian survey, fish study, and efforts to get permits for a beaver dam analog in a Horseshwamp tributary that drains from Holly Hill.

Mary Hoover, Southern Maryland Regional Coordinator, spoke about her work with the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance to establish a new Southern Maryland refuge, to map critical lands and find ways to protect them, and to create and staff “friends of watershed” groups to monitor and advocate for watersheds.

Donor Relations Committee

Robin Truslow reported on ACLT's progress and fundraising over the decade to keep the Land Trust financially strong, as well as the growing number of new donors. Then she outlined the steps for ACLT to remain financially strong.

Treasurer's Report

Cheryl Place presented the Trust’s revenue and expenditures report noting that ACLT continues to operate in the black. Total Revenue was \$549,962 and total expenses were \$485,948.

Land Acquisition and Preservation Committee

Dave Farr discussed the Yoe property purchased in June and the work underway to restore the house. It is a wonderful land purchase for ACLT.

Outreach and Membership

Miriam Gholl, Community Relations Manager, reported on the many successful events of the year as well as the new outreach strategies and five-year plan successes. In 2022, we continued several events - both in-person and virtual, but by Spring, it was evident that event attendance was returning to pre-pandemic levels. By then, most organizations had resumed in-person activities and were competing for people's time.

The highlight of the year was the Chili Cook-off and Auction, held October 23rd at the pavilion at Jefferson Patterson Park. After two long years without the dinner/auction, members and supporters were finally able to gather together in person to enjoy great food and fellowship. The pavilion was the perfect venue, as it offered an open-air space for guests to mingle without being overcrowded. The introduction this year of an online bidding site was well-received and a lot of fun. Their goal is to inform, educate, and involve.

Land Management

Autumn Phillips-Lewis, Land Manager, highlighted all the projects undertaken by ACLT staff. Featured was the meadow work, which was a goal of the five-year plan. Also mentioned was invasives removal, the Yoe stormwater project, property monitoring, trails projects, and the Double Oak Farm & Food Forest project to raise and donate healthy food. Autumn finished by thanking all of the volunteers in 2022, including giving special recognition to those who had volunteered for over 100 hours.

Approved _____.

BL Johnston, Secretary