

MAY 2021

CONSERVANCY FIELD NOTES

Updates from Resident Board of Trustees



Willowsford Neighbors,

Happy Spring! We hope this finds you well and healthy as we all slowly emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

A special greeting to all of our new Willowsford neighbors (either through new construction or resale) – welcome!

We held a Conservancy Board of Trustees meeting this week and we wanted to share some of the highlights below. It was a milestone meeting in many ways because during our gathering, control of the Conservancy passed from the Willowsford founder to residents (via us, your Board).

Regards,

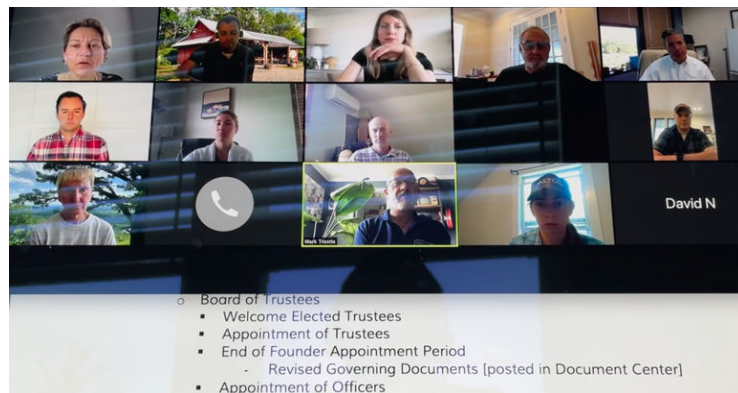
- Chase Rowan, President
- Claudette Papathanasopoulos, Vice President
- Greg Licamele, Secretary
- Karyn Moreland, Treasurer
- Jake Virag, Trustee



CONSERVANCY BOARD CHANGES

For nearly 10 years, Willowsford Conservancy has been under the stewardship of the Willowsford founder. After a decade of sweat, toil, planning and funding, the Conservancy is in a very healthy position because of the founder's vision, persistence and patience.

On May 18, the developer passed the torch to the new Board of Trustees that began its term. Your new Board includes the resident names signed above, as well as Mark Trostle from the Willowsford development team, who will remain on the board for the next year to help with the transition, as well as Avi Sareen, a terrific environmental consultant who lends his expertise as we collectively govern the Conservancy.



As noted on page one, we elected a new slate of officers. We're excited to continue to build upon the solid foundation left to us by the founder, while also looking to plan ahead for the next 10+ years.

To that end, we formed a task force at our first meeting to begin mapping out a strategic planning process to help guide the next decade. What do we all envision? What's the consensus for priorities? What's the vision for areas like the Farm Stand, trails and other amenities? We'll have more information to share this year, but if you have specific experience in leading strategic planning or facilitation, we'd love to hear from you for some resident pro bono support. Reach out to info@willowsfordconservancy.org.



UPDATED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

As we begin our term as a new Board, we invite you to view the many financial documents that exist on the Conservancy website. An independent audit was recently concluded that yielded no significant issues or areas of concern. You'll also find this year's budget, year-to-date expenditures/revenue, as well as required tax forms as part of our 501c4 required filings. [Visit the document center](#) and choose "Financial Information."



WILLOWSFORD FARM STAFF CHANGES

In this season of new beginnings, we welcome our new Willowsford Farm Manager Andrew Dunham! Andrew joins us from Iowa, where he and his wife farmed for 14 years raising organic produce and other products much like here at Willowsford. Andrew has spent the last month getting the literal lay of the land, while also moving into The Grant Tenant House with his wife, Melissa, and their daughters. Andrew joins us at such a critical juncture in the farm's life and we look forward to his leadership, vision and passion in the coming years, as well as his friendly smile and his love for healthy soils!

As a Board, we'd be remiss if we didn't say one last thank you to Collin Thompson, who led the farm ably for the last few years. We wish him well in Maine!



OTHER QUICK UPDATES

At each board meeting, the Conservancy's executive director, Iris Gestram, and her team provide a detailed report of operations, opportunities and challenges. Here are a few updates of note:

Pinewoods Loop Trail

- Many of you in The Grove have noticed changes to the Pinewoods Loop Trail. A large portion of the trail has been rerouted from a sewer easement to inside the woods. Why? This is part of a planned project this year to make Pinewoods Loop more accessible for individuals with wheelchairs, strollers and mobility challenges of any kind. The sewer easement was simply too difficult a terrain to meet this goal, so a better path was created through the woods. Another section will be rerouted soon for the same purpose.

The mission of the Conservancy is to protect, maintain and promote the viable, long-term use of the land, integrating farming, recreation, conservation and education to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Willowsford and the greater community.

CSA Farm Shares and Farmstand Online

• The 2021 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) season begins next week, May 25! Soon, we'll all see the farm truck making deliveries to members. The farm sold out of all its shares this year, so community support remains strong:

- 350 shares of vegetables
- 200 egg shares
- 75+ flower shares
- 60 meat shares

Those shares yield about \$350,000 in revenue to keep our farm going. Of course, with more than 2,000 homes in Willowsford, not everyone can (or wants to) participate in CSA shares. However, you still can sign up for Farm Stand Online, which will alert you when there's additional produce and other goods available for purchase each week (hello, summer tomatoes!). Learn more here and sign up (especially if you're a new resident!):

<http://willowsfordconservancy.org/farm/farm-stand/>

Planting Trees on Conservancy Property

• Yes, it is possible to partner with the Conservancy to plant trees near your homes on Conservancy property. We have a process (and form!) much like the HOA (in fact, it's the same licensing form). We're going to review that form as a Board and then add it and additional information to the Conservancy website so you can easily view how this works if you're interested (and if it's approved). Of course, we want to encourage more trees, native plants and other beneficial habitat – and we'd be happy to work with you.

Fill Your Fire Pits with Conservancy Firewood

• As residents, we see that list of DRC approved projects, many of which include firepits and fireplaces. Be sure to stock up on firewood from the Conservancy -- wood that is from our land and not imported from elsewhere, which could introduce pests to our community. Check

<http://willowsfordconservancy.org/firewood/> for details. There's been a recent uptick in orders, so thank you for your help in controlling invasive pests.

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Cleaning Up Our Land

- A huge thank you to many residents who helped pick up trash and other debris on Earth Day. We appreciate the support in keeping the Conservancy clean not just for us as human residents, but for the benefit of our natural neighbors, too. As you're on trails or other Conservancy land this spring and summer, we encourage you to pick up any trash that you might be able to handle and dispose of it properly. You'll be hearing more from us as Board about volunteering and helping to keep our land clean in the coming months.

Help Eradicate Garlic Mustard

- Speaking of cleaning up our land, we need your help before June! The invasive species, garlic mustard, needs to be removed from along our trails before it sets seed next month. We have a handful of volunteers so far, but the Land Stewardship Team could use more hands. Please help us tackle the invasive plant problem by jumping on a trail near you and pulling up garlic mustard. By pulling it up by hand and stuffing them in trash bags we can help reduce the rate at which this invasive plant spreads. For more information on this volunteer opportunity please contact info@willowsfordconservancy.org.

