## **President's Report**



2020 will certainly be remembered as the pandemic year. In the midst of such a challenging time, I am grateful to live in Ashby where the outdoors is so available to us. I discovered new woods trails and loved watching the seasons express themselves in the forests around me.

The Land Trust did lead several hikes this past year, but curtailed most of our public programming due to the coronavirus. As Duck Master Doug reports elsewhere, our virtual Duck Derby was a smashing success, and the award winning home movie can still be found on our website!

Our Annual meeting was held by video conference in July. We bid a fond farewell to founding member Janet Flinkstrom as she retired from the Board. Janet attended our very first exploratory meeting back in 1998, was a signatory on our incorporation papers, and served as our first clerk. Although we couldn't meet in person, we still managed to celebrate her tenure and commitment to the Land Trust.

We heartily welcomed Dan Ewald who was elected as our newest Board member. Dan has a graduate degree in environmental science and policy, helps with our monitoring, and maintains our Facebook page. Check it out! www.facebook.com/ashbylandtrust

Towards the end of the year we began working with the Nashua River Watershed Association on a new Forest Legacy application. The Forest Legacy program is a land conservation program that assists landowners to receive federal funding for protecting their land. Projects take



several years to come to fruition, but we have successfully protected several parcels in Ashby previously and are hopeful to do more this round.

Two other local conservation successes also deserve comment here. The Trustees of Reservations purchased Jewell Hill Farm, preserving a lovely piece of our rural heritage. There are many trails and views on the property, which is open to the public. And at the very end of the year, our neighbors at the North County Land Trust successfully preserved the south peak of Mount Watatic. We are grateful and happy for both of these acquisitions which enhance the quality of life for us in Ashby as well as the larger community.

Thank you to you, our loyal membership and to the Board for your support during this extraordinary year.

Jeanie Lindquist, President

## Board & Members for 2020

Board Members Jeanie Lindquist, President Vicki Mickola, Vice President Doug Leab, Treasurer Rebecca Walsh, Clerk Dan Ewald Tiffany Call Bob Leary Mike McCallum Cedwyn Morgan

Lifetime Members Bill Annold Chris & Alan Ewald Janet Morrison Sponsors *Newsham Family* 

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McNeil Family John & Vicki Mickola Cedwyn & Martha Morgan M&M Mullins Jenny Murphy Kathy Panagiotes Alan & Lorraine Pease Ann & Barry Peterson Norm & JoAnn Pierce James Piper Lois & Bob Raymond Tracy Robinson Cec Snow & Claire Deucher Kate Stacy Wayne & Linda Stacy Marion Stoddart Lennart & Grace Swanson Scott & Ingrid Sweeney Rebecca Walsh Cindy Zwicker & Cathy Biliouris