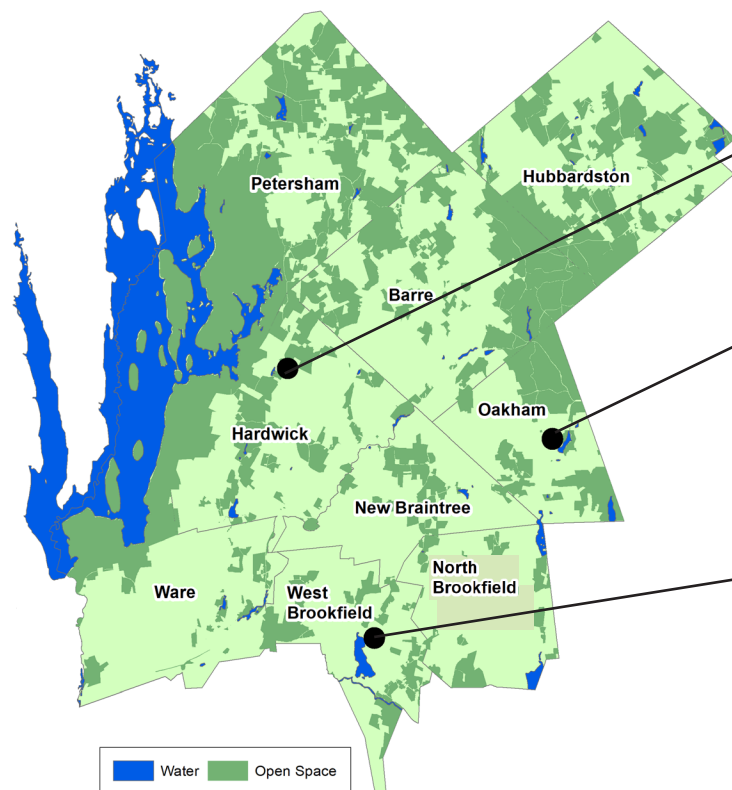


2020 Annual Report



Conserving the land, Preserving our heritage

Resilient Together



Land Conservation

Tallage Lincoln

Pre-acquisition for MassWildlife:

Purchase (and later transfer) of 32-acres of woods on Charity Hill Road in Hardwick as an addition to the Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area.

Grimes

Land donation:

These 74-acres of active farmland and woods in Oakham center were donated with the goal of keeping the land in farming and no additional houses built. Grazing of the pasture and haying the fields will continue, and a walking trail through the woods will add public access off Ware Corner Road.

Confar

Purchase:

30+ acres of woodlands adjacent to Pynchon's Grist Mill Preserve were purchased, which provide better access to the land and increases the walking trail opportunities. A bird habitat management plan will guide future stewardship decisions.

Education and Events

- Videos on a variety of topics were prepared and shared during this time of separation. The virtual tour of the Dana Common was the most popular video. Other topics were lacto-fermentation preparation, what is an appraisal, general forest management, how to assemble a bluebird house, and winter seed sowing.
- Virtual youth education programs included video recordings of book readings with activities, Story Walks for families, and small group explorations of our aquatic ecosystems.
- Members shared their artistic skills by creating and adding to mandalas during Earth Day celebrations and salvage art sculptures along the Mass Central Rail Trail.
- Summer outdoor gatherings included the annual meeting and ice cream social, paddling on Hardwick Pond, and exploring the northern shore of the Quabbin Reservoir by the access with the keystone bridge.
- Fall outdoor gatherings included visiting Tex and Joy (donkey and mule) who were visiting at the Coxhall Kitchen Garden and a pizza party at Wendemuth Meadow to thank our dedicated volunteers for their tremendous work over the year.

Leadership Circle Events

- As the pandemic forced us to change the way we carried out our programming, together we thought about the words that best express our values and actions. A word cloud was created.
- Members gathered for a reading of Doris Matthews' "Wendemuth Meadow Haiku," learning about her creative process and dedication of the poetry book to fellow steward, Harrison Achilles.

THE EAST QUABBIN LAND TRUST

works to foster the sustainable use of our natural and historic resources for the benefit of all through the conservation and stewardship of the farms, woods and waters in our region of Massachusetts.

Serving the Central Massachusetts towns of Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Petersham, Ware, and West Brookfield

P.O. Box 5, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick, MA 01037 | 413.477.8229 | EQLT.org

2020 Financial Review

Unaudited Figures

Income

Category.....	Amount	Percent of Total Income
Operating Support from Morss Property Endowment	\$ 0	0%
Grants and Contract	\$ 60,000	17%
Fundraising and Membership.....	\$ 204,900	57%
Property and Other Revenue.....	\$ 96,753	27%
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$ 361,653	

Expenses

Category.....	Amount	Percent of Total Income
Program Services	\$ 206,320	67%
Advancement	\$ 58,509	19%
General and Administrative.....	\$ 43,112	14%
TOTAL EXPENSE.....	\$ 307,940	

Permanent and Capital Funds

Category.....	Beginning Balance	Year End
Morss Property Endowment.....	\$ 676,340	\$ 752,835
Conservation Restriction.....	\$ 105,122	\$ 132,829
Monitoring and Enforcement Fund		
Farms for the Future Fund	\$ 89,046	\$ 219,199
Sustainability Fund	\$ 592,422	\$ 706,297

Tree Planting in Ware

The spring planting season was cancelled because of COVID-19 restrictions, but by the fall a small number of trees got into the ground. The Highland Village Apartments planting included serviceberry, red maple, tulip, red oak, basswood, and black tupelo. Planting a variety of trees helps protect against future fungal or insect infestations, making it possible to keep the tree canopy intact even if specific varieties are threatened in the future. Tree planting will continue for another two years, adding to the urban tree canopy in Ware.

Trail Update

The country-wide shut-down because of the COVID-19 meant a huge increase of visitors to all our trails, including the Mass Central Rail Trail. Several new single-track trails began at preserves in Barre, Hubbardston and Oakham, being finalized in 2021. The formal request for a license agreement to utilize the 2.3-miles of National Grid ownership in Ware for expansion of the Mass Central Rail Trail was submitted. Additional information was requested by National Grid, which will be provided in 2021, with the goal of beginning construction during the fall.

Property Stewardship

- Family-sized projects were the focus, including distributing 100+ bluebird house kits, planting three pollinator gardens, sharing 300 pollinator plants, and installing benches and interpretive signs at the Mass Central Rail Trail.
- A successful year for kestrels, with six kestrel boxes producing at least 21 fledglings.
- Monitored 18 conservation restrictions and 18 preserves.

Wunohke Guild Fund

A significant financial gift in memory of Elaine and Loren Gould was received in 2020 to support our projects and programs. Our intention is to strategically target these funds towards efforts that they cared about – gardening, education and community connections.



BOARD & STAFF

Judith Jones.....NEW BRAINTREE, *President*
 Mark Mattson.....OAKHAM, *Vice President*
 Jerry Reilly.....HARDWICK, *Treasurer*
 Martha Klassanos.....WARE, *Clerk*
 Stan White.....HARDWICK
 Stephen Brewer.....BARRE
 Ann Hicks.....NORTH BROOKFIELD

Philip Hubbard.....BARRE
 Jody KablackNEW BRAINTREE
 Ginny RichBARRE
 Rick Romano.....HARDWICK
 Harry Web.....HARDWICK
 Cynthia Henshaw.....Executive Director
 Richard Cavanaugh.....Development Coordinator

Pattie Rich..... Bookkeeper
 Jess Cusworth.....Program Coordinator
 Pat Allison..... Youth Education Coordinator
 Sophie Andrews..... Youth Education Coordinator
 Terry BriggsBoard Emeritus
 Chris Buelow.....Board Emeritus
 Lucinda Childs.....Board Emeritus