



Annual Meeting & Conservation Celebration Hurt Hub, Saturday January 6, 2024, 4-6 pm

The Davidson Lands Conservancy (DLC) held its 2023 Annual Meeting Saturday, January 6, 2024 at the Hurt Hub in Davidson, NC. The membership was provided adequate notice of the meeting via several email blasts (Sept, Nov, and Dec), website postings and the fall solicitation letter sent to all supporters in November. Approximately 100 people attended the event which served as the Conservancy's Annual Meeting in addition to a celebration of 2023 conservation achievements.

Board members attending the meeting were: Ed Harris, Cindy McIntosh, Bonnie Newell, Brent Evans, Janet Andersen, Gordon Clark, Paul Freestone, John Griffith, Pam Hay, and Tom Shandley. Staff or key volunteers present: Zee Berl; Carly Schiano; Misty Davis; and Dave Cable.

Board President Ed Harris called the meeting to order at around 5 pm. He reminded all attending of DLC's mission by reading the mission statement and expressing his heartfelt belief in the importance of DLC's work. Ed acknowledged the pending leadership transition and thanked Dave for his service to the organization. Ed also commented on DLC's successful year in meeting our goals, and he thanked the Board and volunteers for their service and commitment.

Ed presented out-going President Paul Freestone with a ceramic platter made by Tom Shandley, and thanked Paul for his many years of service to DLC and to regional conservation and greenways, including the following: 5 years on the DLC Board; kick started the Forever Fund with a generous challenge match; served as VP 2020 and 2021; DLC President – 2022 and 2023; Run For Green committee chair and key leader for 5 years; served on Governance and Development committees; active in property stewardship; and served on the Mecklenburg County Park and Rec Commission and Greenway Advisory Board.

Ed introduced Tom Shandley, chair of the Governance Committee, who shared with the members the 2024 officers as approved by the Board: Ed Harris, President; Cindy McIntosh, Vice President; Brent Evans, Treasurer; and Bonnie Newell, Secretary.

Tom recognized out-going Board member Tom Watson for his many contributions including: he served on the DLC Board for 6 years; Treasurer for 3 years, handled first audit; served as policy guru and on Governance for years; Land Conservation Committee; Tree Master; hosted previous DLC annual meetings; R4G volunteer for years; active in property stewardship; key contributor to repositioning DLC.

Tom next brought to the membership the Governance Committee's recommendation for appointment of John Griffith and Tom Shandley for second 3-year terms on the DLC Board. The membership's vote on the Committee motion was unanimous.

This concluded the business portion of the meeting.

Executive Director Dave Cable reviewed the key accomplishments for 2023 and thanked a wide range of people who had helped to make the previous year successful. He recognized Trane Technologies as DLC's 2023 corporate partner of the year. Other awards included Davidson College as a partner in the community's conservation (plaque presented to Shelley Rigger, VP Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty) and Ty Cryan as the 2023 Volunteer of the Year (Ty was not present). Dave also presented Sterling Martin with DLC's Lifetime Achievement Award and read a partial listing of the many ways Sterling has advanced DLC.

Development Committee chair John Griffith reported on the status of the Now & Forever Campaign indicating we had raised \$1,650,000 toward the \$1,750,000 goal. John also announced the establishment of the "Sustainers Society" to help ensure the long term sustainability of DLC. Society members commit to continuing their support of DLC in the coming years.

Ed closed the meeting by thanking the members for their support.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 at which time there was a raffle led by Gordon Clark.



Bonnie Newell, Secretary

January 8, 2024