



**Hilltown
Land Trust**
AN AFFILIATE OF THE TRUSTEES

NEWS
**Fall/Winter
2022**

DEDICATED TO PROTECTING THE
WORKING LANDS, NATIVE HABITATS, AND RURAL BEAUTY
OF THE HILLTOWNS SINCE 1986

105 New Acres to Explore!



**Conservation
Conversation**

**A Poet's View
of the Land**

www.HilltownLandTrust.org Find us on social media!   

105 New Acres to Explore

This summer, Hilltown Land Trust acquired a 105-acre forested property in Worthington adjacent to the Conwell property! In the coming year, we plan to extend the trails at Conwell onto this newly-conserved land to create a longer, approximately 3-mile loop trail over the top of Eagle Nest Ridge and down to the scenic Jackson Swamp.

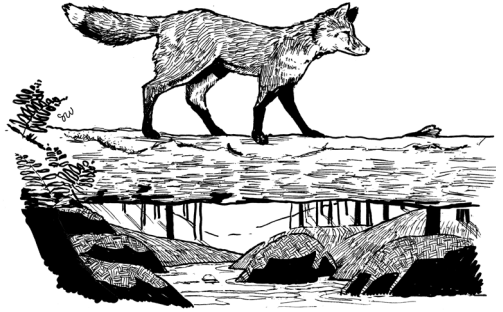
In addition to new trails for people, conserving this property will have tremendous benefit for local wildlife. Animals like mink, bear, moose, fox, and others need corridors of wild lands to safely access their preferred habitat and find food and water.

With climate change bringing extreme weather patterns like droughts and floods, these corridors become increasingly vital to native

projects like this one can only happen when individuals and organizations come together with a common purpose

support as a donor helped make this project possible! This land acquisition was also supported by funding from MassWildlife, which now holds a Conservation Restriction over the entire Conwell property.

Stay tuned to our e-news, website, and social media for opportunities to help create the new trails and for an announcement when the new trails officially open!



Red Fox, by Sarah Welch

fauna needing to move between habitats. These 105 acres connect to thousands of acres of woodlands, wetlands, and rivers, including many properties conserved by HLT, MassWildlife, and the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Land conservation projects like this one can only happen when individuals and organizations come together with a common purpose to advance a shared goal. **Your**

CONSERVATION
CONVERSATION

We Want to Hear From You!

What are your priorities for open space and land conservation in the beautiful Western Mass Hilltowns? Please fill out a short survey and add your perspective as we chart our course for the future.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/9F52GHQ



A Poet's View of the Land

By Sarah Welch, Community Engagement Coordinator and TerraCorps service member

A cold October morning last year, local poet JuPong Lin and I spent a two-hour walk in deep conversation with each other and the land at Hilltown Land Trust's Conwell property.

When JuPong created her first poem for our chapter in the upcoming *Writing the Land: Windblown I* anthology, I was deeply touched. In "This Hilltown Pond," she wrote about our walk with such tender care and curiosity.

I had so much fun supporting JuPong's poems with my art and writing in the anthology to honor a beloved Hilltown place. I hope you enjoy it!



JuPong Lin reading at Conwell

To the right is an excerpt from one of JuPong's poems, and to the left is one of Sarah's multiple gorgeous illustrations from the book *Writing the Land: Windblown I*.

You can read the full poem, purchase the book, and watch the virtual book launch—which includes JuPong reading "This Hilltown Pond"—on our website: hilltownlandtrust.org/tag/fw22newsletter

THIS HILLTOWN POND

In the shade of fungus festooned
hemlock and pine
foxfire blued twigs and tender
trickling of a stream
melting mysteriously into moist
leafy soil hushes
our happy chatter
...

Thank You Peter and Suzy!

This fall we celebrated the retirement of Hilltown Land Trust Board members Peter Jeswald and Suzy Kulik. They both contributed so much while they were on the Board that one article can't possibly encompass it all!

Peter Jeswald (Conway) chaired our Stewardship Committee, helping the organization make strategic decisions about the management of our protected lands.

Suzy Kulik (Worthington) served as HLT's Board Secretary for many of her 10 years on the Board and served on our Stewardship Committee, where she lent her expert organizational skills and willingness to help out whenever she was needed.

We will miss Suzy and Peter's warmth, humor, and energy at our Board meetings, but we are so grateful to them for their many years of service to HLT and the communities we serve. Thank you Suzy and Peter!

If you are interested in learning more about Board or Committee service, please get in touch with our Office Manager Tiffany at tiffany@hilltownlandtrust.org.



Peter Jeswald



Suzy Kulik



Tiffany, Tim, and Sarah pose by a wildlife camera

Get to Know Tim, Tiffany, and Sarah

This September, Hilltown Land Trust welcomed Tiffany Thibodeau as our Office Manager and Tim Antrim-Cashin as our TerraCorps Land Stewardship Coordinator, and welcomed back Sarah Welch as our TerraCorps Community Engagement Coordinator.

To introduce them, we decided to play a game of “Two Truths and a Lie”.
Join us for an upcoming event or volunteer workday to meet them in person!

Here are their responses:

Tim:

- 1) I have been to 49 states.
- 2) I once drank so much maple syrup, three of my teeth fell out the following week.
- 3) I've skipped a stone halfway across the Connecticut River.

Tiffany:

- 1) I have lived in four different towns in Western MA and five different states in the Northeast.
- 2) I was once a zookeeper.
- 3) I've had a cat, dog, and iguana as pets.

Sarah:

- 1) I've hiked all the 4,000-foot mountains of New Hampshire.
- 2) I've tried two foraged mushrooms: oyster and chicken of the woods.
- 3) My favorite animal is the beaver.

▶ To find out which are their lies (and so much more), and to read the full version of this and the other articles, visit: hilltownlandtrust.org/tag/fw22newsletter



Volunteers make your local land trust stronger!

If you are interested in volunteering with HLT, email contactus@hilltownlandtrust.org, or call (413) 628-4485, ext. 5



Walter Korzec & Fran Henry

Love For Each Other and The Hilltowns

Walter Korzec and Fran Henry made their homes in the Hilltowns in the 1970s and 80s. When they met and became engaged in 2007, they affirmed their love of Cummington and the surrounding landscapes as part of their vows.

Walter served on Cummington's Conservation Commission for more than thirty years. Fran served as Board President of Hilltown Land Trust in the mid-1980s, and has proudly paid dues to be a member every year.

"Illness forced us to leave our beloved home and move to a retirement community in the valley," said Fran. "At the same time, we were putting a trust in place for where our assets should go. What better way to tell the story of our decades-long love for the Hilltowns than to include Hilltown Land Trust in our plans?"

Fran and Walter's love for each other is evident from the way they look at each other, and from the way they make sure the other is taken care of. Their trust stipulates that all assets will go first to their partner for their lifetime, then ultimately distributed to causes they care about like Hilltown Land Trust.

"We could not be more pleased recalling our Hilltown days than knowing some of our assets will head there in the future so that others may enjoy this wonderful place," said Fran.

"What better way to tell the story of our decades-long love for the Hilltowns than to include Hilltown Land Trust in our plans?"

A planned gift to HLT is a meaningful and impactful way to show your love for the Hilltowns.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can create a lasting legacy on the land, get in touch with our Engagement Manager, Katie Carr: katie@hilltownlandtrust.org (413) 628-4485 x 5.

Hilltown Land Trust Board of Directors & Staff

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18th Annual Gorge Après Gorge 5k & Family Fun Walk

Sunday, November 27th
Chesterfield Gorge

Register
Now!



Read what community members have to say about the event:

"My family loves that the Gorge après Gorge is so community focused. It's eight minutes from where we live, is such a gorgeous setting, and is approachable for new runners and kids. The course is closed, safe, and they are unable to get lost. It's not intimidating, and everyone is supportive. It's just a sweet event."

-Alexis

"This has always been a favorite race of ours. Great energy. Gorgeous course."

-Melinda

"I love the sense of community that it has. So welcoming to all participants."

-Tom

www.runreg.com/gorge-apres-gorge-2022

Have you visited one of our trails lately?
We want to hear about your experience! Send us an email:
ContactUs@HilltownLandTrust.org

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