

# Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation



preserve  
promote  
educate

Protecting the Rural New England Character of Williamstown Since 1986

## 2016 Annual Report



Celebrating 30 years of land conservation in Williamstown

Looking southwest over Williamstown's layered landscape to the preserved lands of Sheep Hill and the Taconics on the horizon

## From the Director's Desk in early 2017...

As I write this year's piece for the 2016 Annual Report, I find myself in a reflective mood. In fewer than six months I will be handing over my key to the front door of the Lewis Center and heading off into what seems now a little like the unknown, otherwise known as retirement.

What I will most miss about my time with Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation are the people. I will remember sitting at kitchen tables, at picnic tables, or around the conference table at Sheep Hill for discussions with landowners about preserving their land. I have experienced the generosity and long-term commitment to WRLF from its wonderful members. I have worked with a great variety of talented, committed, and creative Board members and officers. I have enjoyed the assistance and support of some truly extraordinary and understanding staff. I have been a part of an amazing community of land conservation professionals across the state. I have gotten to know our community's inquisitive children and made lasting friendships with college interns.

Working for the WRLF has been rewarding, challenging (land projects require a lot of patience!), and always interesting. Williamstown is incredibly lucky to have so much beautiful land available for hiking, farming, forestry, and of course for the enjoyment of amazing views. I know I will continue to spend time in these special places.

I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude and admiration to all of you for your involvement, support and friendship. It has been a privilege to work with each and every one to make the WRLF the vibrant and successful land conservation trust it is today. And there are still opportunities awaiting as the organization faces the future challenges of land conservation and stewardship, and encouraging community sustainability. We will need to work even harder together to take advantage of these opportunities.

Thank you again for helping make my time at the WRLF most fulfilling and rewarding. I look forward to seeing you on the trails, at WRLF events, and around Williamstown in the future!



Leslie scopes out the Kestrel box during a spring bird walk at Sheep Hill.

## Comparative Financial Summary Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, Inc.

### CONDENSED COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2016 & 2015

	2016	2015
Cash & Other	\$ 187,642	\$ 187,398
Conservation Land at cost	2,175,248	2,175,248
Property & Equipment	397,208	395,515
Investments & Endowment at Market Value	<u>898,625</u>	<u>866,068</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 3,658,723</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 3,624,229</u></b>
Total Liabilities	\$ 25,030	\$ 43,703
Total Net Assets	<u>3,633,693</u>	<u>3,580,526</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 3,658,723</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 3,624,229</u></b>

### CONDENSED COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 & 2015

	2016	2015
Membership Revenue	\$ 122,882	\$ 128,867
Donations, Fundraising, Grants & Other	<u>266,800</u>	<u>177,687</u>
Subtotal	389,682	306,554
Investment Income	33,852	47,644
Net <u>Unrealized</u> Gain (Loss) on Investments	<u>36,707</u>	<u>(62,829)</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 460,241	\$ 291,369
Total Expenses	<u>407,074</u>	<u>248,762</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	53,167	42,607
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	<u>3,580,526</u>	<u>3,537,919</u>
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b><u>\$ 3,633,693</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 3,580,526</u></b>

#### You can leave a legacy through your bequest to the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation

A bequest to the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation can have a lasting impact on the unique rural character and scenic beauty of Williamstown while protecting its working farms and forests, and natural and cultural heritage for the future.

Bequests allow you to make decisions about your estate and can be used to make a substantial gift to a specific fund, such as the WRLF's land fund, or the Broadbent Endowment to ensure annual support for our general work. In some cases, a bequest may reduce estate taxes. Your bequest will most certainly enhance the WRLF'S ability to achieve its mission.

## WRLF Board of Directors

Phil McKnight, President - '17\*  
 Malcolm Smith, Vice President - '18  
 Win Stuebner, Vice President - '18  
 James C. Gibbons, Treasurer - '17  
 Wendy Skavlem, Secretary - '19  
 Jock Brooks - '19  
 David P. Dethier - '18  
 Maureen M. Dietze - '17  
 Karen Falk - '17  
 Dustin Griffin - '17  
 Tom Jorling - '18  
 Penelope I. Low - '19  
 Sue Metzner - '18  
 Molly Polk - '18  
 Jennifer Swoap - '17  
 Peter Thomsen - '19

\*Indicates term of expiration

Stephen N. Pagnotta, Counsel

### Staff

Leslie Reed-Evans, Executive Director  
 Cathy Talarico, Assistant Director  
 Kathy Chesney, Educator/Program  
 Coordinator

### Directors Emeriti

Henry W. Art  
 Marion C. Alton  
 Anita B. Barker  
 Elizabeth Bartels  
 Linda Becker  
 Roger Bolton  
 John C. Craig  
 Anne Crider  
 †Betsy Debevoise  
 Virginia N. Fletcher  
 †Henry N. Flynt, Jr.  
 Juliet Flynt  
 Mary Lou Galusha  
 Susan W. Gold  
 Bruce D. Grinnell  
 Sherwood Guernsey  
 Amy Herring  
 David Horton  
 Libby Kieffer  
 Chet Lasell  
 Don H. McLucas, Jr.  
 Nancy Nylen  
 Claire-Ann Oakley  
 Stephen N. Pagnotta  
 Charles T. Schlesinger  
 John L. Sprague  
 Richard C. Steege  
 John N. Umlauf  
 Pamela B. Weatherbee  
 Kim Wells  
 Samuel R. Westcott, Jr.  
 †John Winant  
 Reinhard A. Wobus  
 †Elizabeth Wright

†Deceased

## 2016 Members of The Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation

WRLF is grateful for the support of its many members. In the interest of online privacy, donor names have not been listed here. A paper copy of the full 2016 Annual Report complete with donor listings is available to members upon request. Email [ruraland@wrlf.org](mailto:ruraland@wrlf.org) or call the office (413)458-2494.

### Additional Gifts In Memoriam

Several gifts were made in  
memory of longtime  
WRLF members

**Harvey Goodell  
Josiah Low  
David Peth**

### For the Endowment of the Mathias J. Bartels Environmental Award Fund

Gifts to this fund support an annual award to a graduating senior at Mt. Greylock Regional High School who has demonstrated environmental leadership. It is named in memory of Mathias Bartels who set an example of leadership at Mt. Greylock. Gifts in 2016 were made by members of his extended family.

The 2016 award recipient was  
Greta Savitsky.

### Our volunteers make things happen!

**Thank you for your  
commitment to  
WRLF this past year!**

Thanks to our Board of Directors,  
Emeritus Board of Directors,  
Committee members and the many  
other individuals and groups who  
volunteered their time.



*View from  
WRLF's 30th anniversary  
celebration in 2016 over  
conserved Galusha family  
farmland to the Taconic range*

## 2016 Gifts to the Broadbent Endowment Fund for the 21st Century 45 for 45 Challenge

Some years ago, William and Camille Broadbent established *The Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation Broadbent Endowment for the 21st Century* to help ensure that funds would be available to support important land preservation projects. Their gifts over the years formed the nucleus of the fund.

In an effort to grow the fund and also to raise awareness among people with ties to Williamstown who may not be familiar with the WRLF and its work, Bill, a 1973 graduate of Williams College, proposed a challenge to donate \$45,000 if \$45,000 could be raised by the time of his 45th class reunion in 2018. In 2015, Bill launched this challenge campaign with enthusiasm and we are delighted to report that this goal was met well ahead of the reunion date.

Based on this wonderful success a new goal of \$100,000 was set and is within reach! If you'd like to donate, please contact us or make a donation at [www.wrlf.org](http://www.wrlf.org).