

Silver Lake Land Trust
Annual Report
2026



Silver Lake Land Trust

2026 Annual Report

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Silver Lake Land Trust

2026 Annual Meeting Agenda

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| 1. Call To Order | Doug Miller |
| 2. Secretary's Report: Minutes of 2025 Annual Meeting | Doug |
| 3. Treasurer's Report | Bob Gogolen |
| 4. Membership Report | Bob |
| 5. Conservation Report | Doug |
| 6. Any Other Old Business | Doug |
| 7. Trustee Nominations and Elections | Doug |
| 8. Any Other New Business | Doug |
| 9. Program | Ryan Owens |

Ryan Owens is the Executive Director of the New England Forestry Foundation and the former Executive Director of the Monadnock Conservancy. Ryan was a cofounding director and past president of the New Hampshire Land Trust Coalition, and he currently serves on the Land Trust Alliance Leadership Council. He holds a master's degree from the Field Naturalist Program at University of Vermont and a B.A. in ecology from Dartmouth College.

Silver Lake Land Trust

Mission

It is the mission of the Silver Lake Land Trust (SLLT) to protect the natural resources and environment of the Silver Lake area by preserving as much land as possible in an open, undeveloped state. To carry out this mission the SLLT will:

- **Educate and inform** Silver Lake residents and appropriate officials and agencies in Harrisville and Nelson regarding the value of conserving land around Silver Lake;
- **Encourage Silver Lake landowners** to donate or sell conservation easements on their properties;
- **Acquire conservation easements** from landowners and, as appropriate, use mechanisms other than conservation easements – e.g. deed restrictions, purchase of land, purchase of rights of first refusal – to conserve land;
- **Work with other conservation organizations** to help them conserve land in the Silver Lake area;
- **Ensure that existing conservation easements** are being monitored and that the provisions of those easements are being scrupulously followed;
- **When requested** by landowners who have donated easements or are thinking of donating easements, work with such landowners to ensure that the Towns of Harrisville and Nelson provide property tax benefits that the landowners are entitled to under state law;
- **Support the strengthening and enforcement** of planning and zoning ordinances in the Towns of Harrisville and Nelson that tend to promote land conservation; and
- **Work with** the Silver Lake Association of Chesham and Nelson and with conservation organizations to protect the natural resources and environment of Silver Lake.

Purpose

Review accomplishments and identify priorities for next five to ten years by:

- **Identifying properties without conservation easements** that have most impact on the Silver Lake environment
- **Identifying areas of cooperation** with Harrisville, Nelson and other relevant conservation committees and groups

Silver Lake Land Trust

Minutes of Annual Meeting August 30, 2025

At Brantwood Camp

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Chair Doug Miller at 10:10 a.m.

Secretary's Report

Secretary pro-tempore Doug Miller presented the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2024. After reviewing the minutes, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. There was no discussion, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bob Gogolen gave a report on the state of the SLLT assets and expenditures.

A motion to approve Treasurer's report was made and seconded; there was no opposition. The motion was unanimously passed.

Conservation Report

The SLLT reported no new conservation easement or other activity for 2024-2025.

Jim Putnam asked if the Board could request the reports of annual reviews of all conservation easements in the watershed from organizations like The Harris Center and The Mondanock Conservancy.

Trustee Nominations/Elections

Doug Miller thanked Dennis Fallon and Sal Mollica, who finished three-year terms and opted against another term on the Board, as well as Malcolm Brown, who asked to be nominated again for another three-year term. Doug was also nominated for another three-year term. In addition, Andrew MacDonald and Rick Wayerhaueser have agreed to be nominated to join Doug and Malcolm as the class of 2028. A motion was made to approve these three members; the motion was seconded; after no discussion, the slate of nominees was approved.

Stewardship Award

Past chair Sal Mollica was awarded the Stewardship Award for 2025 for all of his efforts to raise funds for large conservation easements, co-ordinate ongoing maintenance of roadside culverts, the Soak Up the Rain program that helped prevent runoff from entering the lake, plus many other efforts on behalf of the Silver Lake Land Trust and the Silver Lake Association.

Program

Harrisville Conservation Commission chair Harry Wolhandler talked about efforts being funded by the HCC. In order to help stop the spread of damage caused by hemlock woolly adelgids, the HCC has been introducing a predatory beetle called *laricobius nigrinis* with some indications of success. The HCC has so far released these beetles as far west in Harrisville as Childs Bog and is

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looking for other areas, particularly on the west of town like the Silver Lake watershed, to potentially release more beetles, as prevailing winds from the west may carry the beetles to easter parts of town that may suffer from more mild infestations. The SLLT has identified a couple of areas of concern on Westside and on Eastside Roads that the HCC will investigate this autumn. The HCC is also about to spray a glyphosate solution on Japanese Knotweed and other invasive plant species on the roadsides of Harrisville. The glyphosate is not a commercial product like RoundUp. The HCC is looking for private donations to fund programs like these.

New Business

Ted Braun reported that after attending the annual NH Lakes Conference this year he urges the SLLT and SLA to consider a formalized and comprehensive lake management plan. Doz Delori said that the SLLT adopted a plan in the past. Chair Doug Miller promised to look into this.

Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by Doug Miller, Chair

Silver Lake Land Trust

Conservation and Easements Report

There were no additional acres of conservation in the last year.

Starting last year, the Board of Trustees had a concern this year that much of the “institutional knowledge” of any potential conservation opportunities around the lake is leaving the Board, so we have started documenting in a shared spreadsheet those locations that may still provide conservation opportunities going forward, plus we will document all existing conservation restrictions on properties withing the watershed.

Last fall and this past spring, the Harrisville Conservation Commission continued an ongoing program of placing *laricobius nigrinis* (lari) beetles, which prey on hemlock woolly adelgids and their larva, in specific locations in Harrisville showing signs of heavy hemlock woolly adelgid activity, hoping to slow continued damage caused by the adelgids and create populations that remain and spread. The Conservation Commission reported in the spring that, from all indications, the lari beetles appear to be surviving the Harrisville winter conditions and show signs of spreading and even moving on to new locations. The Silver Lake Land Trust Board of Trustees has voted to donate \$5,000 to the Harrisville Conservation Commission to fund the purchase of lari beetles for fall 2026 and spring 2027.

At last year’s annual meeting, Ted Braun suggested that the SLLT and SLA should create a comprehensive Lake Management Plan that detailed any threats to the water and land within the watershed and a plan that could be activated in case such a threat occurred. Doug Miller was able to find a draft of a Lake Management Plan that was adopted around 1996. Doug will co-ordinate with SLA President Jeff Miller to form a committee to update the plan for 2027 and beyond.

Silver Lake Land Trust

Board of Trustees

As of August 1, 2026

TRUSTEE	CLASS
Doug Miller, Chair	2028
Bob Gogolen, Treasurer	2027
Peter Allen	2026*
Malcolm Brown	2028
John Croteau	2027
Claire Gogolen	2026*
Bill Gurney	2027
Colin Kennard	2026*
Andrew MacDonald	2028
Jazimina MacNeil	2026*
Julia Pakradooni	2026*
Rick Weyerhaeuser	2028

* Term ending

Nominations for Class of 2029

Peter Allen
Claire Gogolen
Colin Kennard
Julia Pakradooni