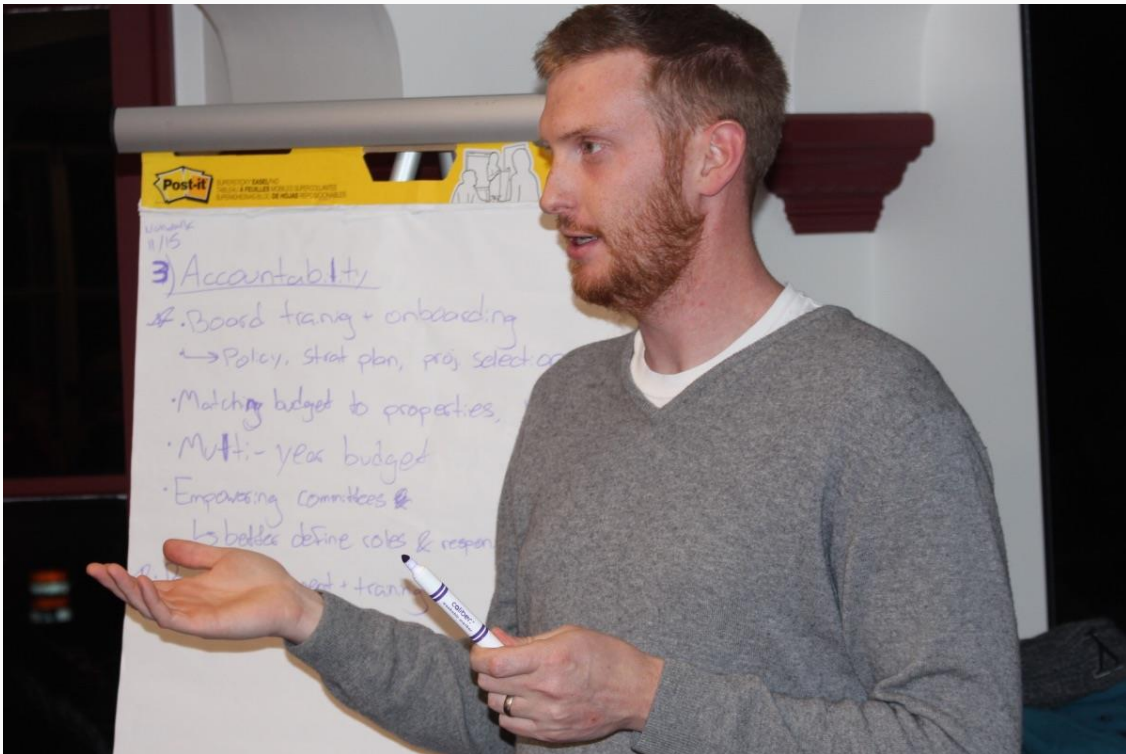




Dear Friend,

Happy Summer! Thanks to your generous support, the Norwalk Land Trust is working harder, preserving hometown open space in its natural state, forever. Here's an update.



In November, Aaron Lefland of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council led the board in a strategic planning retreat. We discussed Norwalk Land Trust strengths and opportunities for growth. Many new initiatives resulted, including a stronger committee structure and autonomy.



Volunteers conducted bi-monthly cleanups at our properties across Norwalk. Above, Stewardship chair Mary Verel and Tammis Lazarus examine a conservation land map and discuss possible encroachment by a neighbor. We are increasing neighbor outreach to explain our work and to strengthen conservation partnerships.



Mary Verel, John Fitzpatrick, Patty Hein, Oscar Castillo, Dan Verel, and Lisa Castillo with items cleaned up from our Big West Cedar open space.



NLT Director Audrey Cozzarin led Earth Day on the Norwalk Town Green for a second year, inviting more than 20 Norwalk conservation groups. More than 400 people participated in the event, which included cleanups, walking and bike tours, and visits from live birds of prey. Congressman Jim Himes, Mayor Harry Rilling, State Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff, Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas and Norwalk Council member Tom Livingston all spoke. Above, a youth pets Bandit the Raccoon at the NLT's table, as volunteer Midge Kennedy looks on.



The Norwalk Transit District joined in publicizing the Earth Day event with this bus advertisement.



Connecticut Secretary of the State Stephanie Thomas spoke on the importance of local conservation. "We have to stay engaged in our community to make change happen. And mitigating the impact of

climate change ... is something that we are all committed to," Thomas said.



A budding conservationist shows off the cedar tree she'll plant at home.



We joined with the Norwalk River Watershed Association, Norm Bloom and Sons (Copp's Oysters), and the Norwalk Common Council for a boat tour of Norwalk's oyster beds to better understand the devastating effects of pesticide runoff from residents' homes, as well as other pollution risks such as PFAs from turf fields. Front row, Dick Harris, Louise Washer, Jes Parker, Barbara Smyth, Lisa Shanahan, Jen McMurrer, Kevin Tepas, Jimmie Bloom; second row, Wendell Livingston, Lisa Jewitt, Donna Merrill, Peter Fraboni, Mary Verel, Greg Burnett, Tom Livingston, Norm Bloom, and Josh Goldstein. Harris, Fraboni, and the Blooms are with Norm Bloom and Sons, Merrill, Parker, and Washer are NRWA members, Tepas, Jewitt, and Verel are NLT directors, and Smyth, McMurrer, Burnett, Tom Livingston, and Goldstein are Council members. Shanahan is a council member and NLT president.



Rowayton School Third Grade Brownie Troop #50112 visited the Charles Irwin Schoendorf Farm Creek Preserve for a tour and talk regarding the importance of marine estuaries, led by Mary Verel,

above. The scouts also planted native wildflowers and created bee beaches, which allow those vital pollinators to safely drink water.



We had a blast marching in the Rowayton Memorial Day Parade May 28 with our mascot Harry the Heron, a puppet created by Norwalk Land Trust member Pamela Proctor. Left to right, Lisa Jewitt, Kevin Tepas, Bob Welsh, Dan Verel, Mary Verel, Connie Bennett, Seeley Hubbard, Frank Varro, and Amy Verel-Varro.

It has been a busy spring conserving Norwalk open space and promoting hometown nature. Our acquisitions team continues to evaluate opportunities to find more open space to conserve within the City of Norwalk. Not pictured is the work we are doing on Hoyt Island to rehabilitate the island into a bird sanctuary using a Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant and a generous donation by our director, Peggy Holton, a film that enhances our Outdoor classroom work made possible by a Horizons grant, and many collaborations with our

neighboring land trusts. More about each of these exciting projects in future newsletters.

All of this vital work is made possible by the generous donation of time, talent, and treasure by Norwalk Land Trust supporters, including you. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Shanahan
President
Norwalk Land Trust



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