



Harvard Conservation Trust Muller Conservation Collaborative 2017 Annual Report

The Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT) was founded in 1973 to “assist in and promote the preservation of the rural character of the Town of Harvard”. In 2015, one of HCT’s founders, Erhart Muller, bequeathed \$1.5M to HCT to be used solely for land protection in Harvard, provided these funds are first matched 1:1 through new donations from private individuals and foundations. To fulfill Erhart’s vision of a collective effort to protect Harvard’s land and natural resources, HCT created the Muller Conservation Collaborative (MCC).

Since its inception in the fall of 2015, the MCC has received donations totaling over \$494,000. We are pleased to report that these funds were put to work in 2017. Last year marked the completion of HCT’s first two MCC supported land protection projects – *Horse Meadows Knoll* and the *Maxant, Still River Conservation Restriction*.



HORSE MEADOWS KNOLL

Horse Meadows Knoll was purchased by HCT in April 2017. This project protects 48 acres of the very best wildlife habitat in Harvard. It also marks the beginning of a new partnership with the Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT), a regional land conservation organization who will take primary responsibility for stewarding Horse Meadows Knoll. SVT not only helped finance the property purchase, but their continued involvement brings added ecological expertise and capacity to the

management of the land. The second project completed was a gift of a conservation restriction by Theodore Maxant in December 2017. This generous gift of property rights ensures that a scenic 5 acre field in Still River Village will forever remain in an open condition. While the underlying land is still owned by Mr. Maxant, the conservation restriction held by HCT protects the agricultural heritage of this scenic field and allows for non-motorized public recreation.

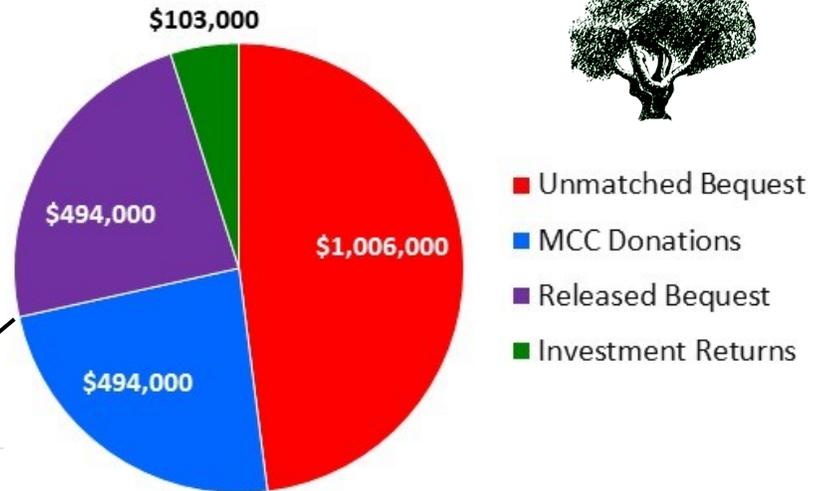


MAXANT, STILL RIVER CONSERVATION RESTRICTION

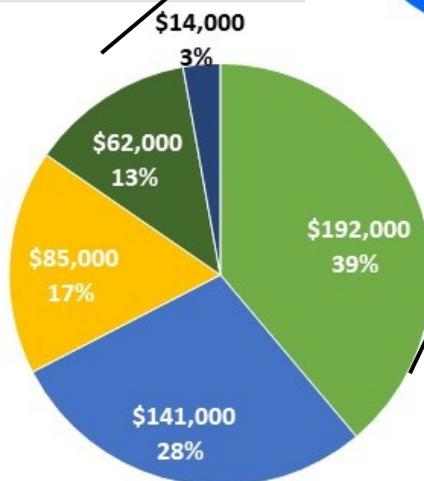
While we are grateful for these successes, they are only a beginning. Development pressure will continue to increase in 2018. In fact, HCT is tracking multiple properties that will likely soon be sold and at risk of some degree of development. Collectively, these properties comprise over 200 acres of Harvard’s most scenic and ecologically important land, with a total estimated value well over \$4M. With the support of MCC donors, HCT will continue to proactively engage landowners and work diligently to protect the best of Harvard’s irreplaceable open space and natural resources.

Muller Conservation Collaborative Financial Summary

As of December 31, 2017, the MCC received donations totaling \$494,000. Each donation released an equal amount from Erhart's bequest. In addition, investment returns from the entire bequest can be used without first being matched. Thanks to Erhart and the generous donors who have stepped up to his challenge, available land protection funding totals \$1,091,000. Of this amount, roughly \$350,000 has been spent or allocated to the Horse Meadows Knoll



- Foundation Gifts
- Individual Gifts ≥\$10K
- Individual Gifts ≥\$5K
- Individual Gifts ≥\$1K
- Individual Gifts <\$1K



(HMK) project. The final MCC allocation for HMK could increase if proceeds from the sale of one house lot do not meet projections. Finally, as previously noted, the estimated cost of prospective land protection projects well exceeds available funds, and even exceeds the anticipated additional \$2M from a fully matched bequest. Thus, HCT will continue to work diligently to find outside revenue sources and creative ways to fully leverage MCC funds.

Muller Conservation Collaborative Donors

Abbie Alpert & Steve Abrams
 Anonymous
 David & Jeanne Berwind
 Paula and David Brown
Robin Carlaw & Bill Calderwood
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Tom & Rhonda Cotton
 Fred and Christina Cowles
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Priscilla Endicott Foundation
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Linda & Russell Shappy
Ted & Mary Shasta†
 Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.†
 Lucy Wallace
 George Watkins
Darrell and Willie Wickman
 Mamie Wytrwal & David Caponera

THANK YOU!

* Numerous donations in memory of Larry Finnegan, one of HCT's founders.

† Matching gift participants and individuals who elicited matching gifts.

Individuals and Foundations in **bold** print have made leading contributions of ≥\$10,000