

# President's Report

Many of us in Town knew, liked, and respected Thomas Mikes. His death in January, 2017 was a loss to us personally, and to Ashby. One of Tom's commitments was to land conservation. His support ensured the acquisition of both the Wiita Conservation Land and Mount Watatic. His generosity extended to many other parts of Town life as well, including the expansion of the Town Library and to many of the needs of the Fire Department. We will miss his thoughtful presence among us.

Nearly all Board members attended the Mass Land Trust Coalition conference in March 2017 and the feedback indicated it was an educational and revitalizing experience for all who attended.

Our 2nd Annual duck race in May was great fun, even though it was a bit damp. We sent more than 400 ducks down Willard Brook into Damon Pond- there was lots of cheering and only a few soakings. Come join us this year on Sunday, May 6 at 1:00.

For twenty years we have been working to create wildlife corridors in Ashby. This winter, over several trips driving down Richardson Rd near the Rod and Gun Club, we saw the results of some of this work. Wandering down the road, or crossing the road, or standing in the road, we saw an amazing parade of Ashby's wild creatures. First there were the grouse, then the turkeys, then the pheasants. One evening, two bears ambled across. And one morning, two baby bobcats crossed, one of whom stopped to stare straight at us! It felt better than just about anything to see this display and to feel confident that future generations can experience it also. We are always interested in welcoming new members to the Land Trust. Why don't you pass this annual report on to a friend and invite them to become a part of our organization?

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## The Third Annual Duck Derby

The Land Trust will hold its third annual Rubber Duck Derby on **Sunday, May 6**, at DCR's Willard Brook State Forest at the head of Damon Pond. **Post Time is 1:00**, rain or shine - the ducks don't care.

Five hundred rubber ducks will run the short, but obstacle laden, course to the finish line. We plan to run 5 heats, with a run-off race of the top finishers from each heat. Some great prizes have been donated for the winners and the whole event promises to be a fun time for all.

Come join us for a fun, outdoor event. Fancy hats are welcome.

See you there!

Photo credits: Dan Ewald, Sussie Holzberlein, Bob Leary, Doug Leab, Mike McCallum

