

Thames Talbot Land Trust

AGM Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2025 @ 6:30 pm – In person at UTRCA

1. Welcome & Housekeeping

Welcome – Jordan Banninga, President of the Board welcomed everyone to the 2025 AGM of TTLT
Housekeeping - thanks to UTRCA, washrooms, fire exit, etc.

AGM – We are here because we share a deep connection to land and nature. Honouring of Indigenous Peoples (land acknowledgement). TTLT is committed to caring for land for future generations.

We are also celebrating 25 years of land care; but care and connection started long before. More about our goals for the next 25 years shortly.

2. Call to Order

Review of Agenda – no additions

Kaitlin – helping with those on Zoom

3. Minutes of 2024 AGM

Motion: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on June 6th, 2024, be approved

Moved by Geoff Vogt

Seconded by Bruce Farnell

Carried

4. Treasurer's Report

Amy Walby gave thanks to Adrienne for her 7 years of service. Amy shared she Chairs Finance Committee – highlighted role of the committee (purpose is to review Audited Financial Statements) TTLT's long standing auditor Ford Keast gave the organization a clean audit.

Financial Highlights:

Snapshot of Assets & liabilities – continuing story of strong financial position for TTLT. Assets have increased by almost \$1million (protected land, cash and investments); Livingstone CEA & purchase of Lakeview Wetlands. Donations and positive market investment have been factors in increase in investments.

Capital Asset – represents the Boview Farm house (currently rented). Change in deferred contributions: when a charity receives funds for a specific purpose, we don't show revenue until it is utilized (opportunities & stewardship and some unrestricted).

Jane Bowles will become an endowed fund in future – transitioning into that model.

Statement of Operations: Total revenue down as it was a quieter year (re: land acquisition and grant revenue) but we are poised for some bigger projects in future. Grant activity was higher in 2023 due to Hawk Cliff. Donated land is up due to Livingstone Conservation Easement Agreement (CEA).

Investment activity is up from London Community Foundation (LCF) and investment income.

Operating donations: this level is quite good given the size of the organization. TTLT has been consistently increasing monthly donors to help with payroll and rent. Expenses: increased since 2023 (expanded events, property acquisition costs, etc.). Operating fund is healthy. Salaries and wages are about half of total expenses. More spent on property acquisition and stewardship, marketing/promotion and events comparatively. Office expenses are down.

Overall it was a good, solid year.

No questions.

Motion: That the Audited Financial Statements for the 2024 fiscal year be received.

Moved by Amy Walby

Seconded by Quinton Lang

Carried

Motion: That the firm Ford Keast be appointed auditors for the Thames Talbot Land Trust for the 2025 fiscal year.

Moved by Amy Walby

Seconded by Lenore Patterson

Carried

5. Elections to the Board of Directors

5 continuing positions; 5 elected positions; 4 new positions

Jordan - Thank you to Andre Lachance, Bernie Vandenbelt and Alan Dale for interviewing the candidates. Review of New Director Nominees and welcomed those able to attend.

Motion: That Geoff Vogt, Bruce Farnell, Alan Dale, Taylor Jones, Amy Walby, Carl Cadogan, Jonathan Holmes, Arlyn Martin, and Paul Noon be elected to the Board of Directors of the Thames Talbot Land Trust for a 2-year term.

Moved by Andre Lachance

Seconded by Cathy Quinlan

Carried

Acknowledgement of retiring directors: Kaitlin Richardson, Vicki Hammond, David Henderson and Lenore Patterson. Certificates given to Lenore and Vicki who were in attendance.

6. Question Period

Q - \$25K from opportunities fund – what was it? A- Funds were transferred out of the trust into the LCF. In 2024 two land purchases - TTLT put funds away for future to invest and grow to draw on it later when we need it to take care of the properties (stewardship).

Q - What is a CEA? A - We usually take full title of a property. With a CEA, it's a legal agreement with a land owner where there are stipulations in place (i.e. no subdivisions) and we help protect the land in perpetuity. The model works well with agricultural land, still has value and is registered on title.

Q - Does the legislation currently going through the Ontario government (Bill 5) impact any of our properties? A - No proposed changes right now. Lands can still be expropriated. But this doesn't typically happen with CEAs.

7. Adjournment of the AGM

Motion: That the Thames Talbot Land Trust 2025 Annual General Meeting be adjourned

Moved by Adrienne James

Seconded by David Wake

Carried

Adjourned by Jordan Banninga at 7:41pm

8. Building on 25 Years of Success

Daria - Highlights of the last 25 years

Save the date – October 17, 2025 - we are turning 25!

2008 – Daria started with TTLT pulling Garlic Mustard with Jane Bowles and helping with school groups. Acknowledgement to those in the audience who have been with TTLT since the beginning, those over 15 years, more than 5 years, and recognition of new members too.

- 25 years of land conservation
- 2300 acres protected (variety of habitats and farms); value over \$10 million
- High biodiversity with rare and declining species
- 70 species at risk: reptiles & amphibians, mammals, plants, aquatic species, birds and insects
- Education has really grown - programs and public events
- Large network of partners and collaborators
- Leadership: awards, commitment of board members, staff, etc.
- Conservation Excellence Certification – 7th land trust in Canada to achieve this recognition
- TTLT ranks 9th in Ontario (out of 36 land trusts), 22 in Canada (out of 150 land trusts) based on land asset value (2022)
- Well governed organization – thanks to founders
- Increased relationships with land and Indigenous communities

Chance for those in audience to share their joys and learnings: Recognition of governance, new and long term members, love of birds and what a wonderful organization it is to tell people about and connect them with.

Review of Strategic Plan: Pillars - Protect, Restore, Nurture, Grow – lots of great work happening and plan well in place. Recognition of great work staff is doing to drive the work and success.

Working on development of a new Strategic Plan with focus on ambitious goals combined with sustainable and responsible growth. Some focuses include: land protection and expansion of geographical areas, branding updates, Indigenous partners, connecting with communities, etc.

Opportunity to share your ideas and vision for the future – watch for surveys and meetings!

Thank you to everyone for all of your support!

Jordan - Thank you to Daria and staff.

Minutes prepared by Leigh Shand