#### ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER

### New Executive Director Wants You To Go Take a Hike

Henry David Thoreau once said, "The moment my legs begin to move, my thoughts start to flow." Hiking Maine in Autumn is perfect for reflecting on the intricacies of change, and life, and dinner—all of which I was doing this morning as I walked, thinking about writing this article. The brilliant display of colors, so temporary, reminded me that whatever comes next, life is about the journey, not the destination. For me, the journey from upstate New York to living and working on Vinalhaven has been much like a trail hike—filled with ups and downs, never dull, always moving forward.

Years ago, my husband, Jim, and I decided we preferred living in the woods to life in sub-urbia. We raised our children in upstate New York, far from cities and sidewalks. I found a tremendous amount of satisfaction working as director of a small not-for-profit, operating the local food pantry and running a few programs to help low-income families make ends meet. I saw first-hand the damaging effects of impediments to accessibility, and the tremendous impacts of inequity. It was during this time that I came to understand how essential a sense of service was to my own productivity and fulfillment.

In 2018 I moved into the position of town and county supervisor, determined to make a difference in my small slice of the world. I quickly became involved in helping to craft policy addressing invasive species and worked closely with colleagues to increase the use of data-driven decision making in economic development, land use planning, and conservation. Before too long, I was appointed to the Adirondack Park Agency, a

board charged with oversight of the largest park in the contiguous U.S.

Around that time, Jim was offered his dream job on Vinalhaven. Not wanting to give up my new career, I stayed in New York while he established a practice on the island. We traveled back and forth, but it was a tough time—soon to be made harder by the challenges of the pandemic.

Early in 2022, delight and relief swept over me when I saw the job posting for the Executive Director of Vinalhaven Land Trust. Imagine! An opportunity to serve a community I already love, doing work that I believe in.

Today, I can say the journey is going great. I can think of no greater joy than listening to kids squeal as they run along the Story Trail with VLT's Programs and Communications Coordinator, Acacia Berg, on a nature outing in partnership with Partners in Island Education. Exploring properties with VLT Steward Kerry Hardy and Office Assistant Sheri Romer Brock is as enjoyable as it is educational. I had productive days with Linnell before her retirement, and I worked hard to absorb as much as possible from her. I am excited to learn more about the flora and fauna of the island by attending future walks and talks, and to meet many of you reading this newsletter. It's perfect.



In my enthusiasm, don't think me naïve or overly optimistic. I know there are challenges ahead, for both me, and for stewardship of conserved lands.

But for every challenge in a hike, there are opportunities moving past my feet as I walk:

- I look forward to continuing to expand partnerships with great organizations like Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership, Partners in Island Education and Tanglewood 4H Camp and Learning Center.
- I'm excited to work with other organizations with similar missions to educate ourselves, the board, the community and others. I'll be grateful for chances to engage more deeply with Vinalhaven's land and people, getting to know property owners of projects (both past and future), looking at trails I've hiked through a new lens, and exploring potential new protections.
- Connecting—with you, with the next generation, with individuals of widely varied backgrounds and perspectives—is so vital to strengthening the organization and fostering better understanding of the work we do, and that will be my initial focus as I come up to speed here.

Before this day ends, I plan to get in another walk before dinner, and I hope you will as well (after reading the rest of the newsletter, of course). As you put one foot in front of the other, whether on pavement or trail, please do so with good health and harmonious thoughts.

-Andrea Hogan, Executive Director

### SHARING OUR TRAILS

We hope you'll get out and enjoy our 18 miles of well-maintained trails during this beautiful season. These shared spaces are home to many living beings, and encompass entire ecosystems that depend on the resources that surround and make up the trails and preserves. Recognizing our own part in these ecosystems is such a special experience, and it also comes with a responsibility to respect the space. Please remember to follow Leave No Trace principles, carry out anything you bring in, and refrain from disturbing or removing the living and nonliving elements of these natural spaces. Thank you!



Photo: Sheri Romer Brock

### PLANNED GIVING

### Stewarding the future

A planned gift of almost any size will help ensure the protection of the habitats and scenic views we all love. Such a gift could be accomplished by simply adding a codicil (amendment) to your will, or by naming VLT as the beneficiary of an insurance policy or retirement plan. If you are the owner of an IRA, you can make a qualified charitable distribution to VLT - keep an eye out for a postcard from us providing more information on this topic. In planning your gift, you should consult with a financial advisor or attorney to discuss your particular situation. Please contact Executive Director Andrea Hogan at 207-863-2543 or email her at executive.director@vinalhavenlandtrust.org to discuss your intentions and for more information on planned giving options.

# Barton's Quarry

There are still a few pieces of property on Vinalhaven that can only be accessed by water, and VLT's newest preserve is one of them. The Barton's Quarry Preserve comprises a granite dome, covered in some places by a mature spruce forest, and sunny open ledges that rise up more than a hundred feet above sea level. As its name indicates, Barton's Quarry was once a granite quarrying site on the island, and you can find evidence of that history throughout this scenic place. Although most recently transferred to VLT from the Basin Land Trust, these twenty-six acres were originally purchased by Muriel Perkins in 1938 from the four Barton siblings, the source of the other half of its name. Owing to the conditions of the gift to VLT, this is one preserve where we must ask visitors to remain exclusively on the trails. Moreover, given the remoteness and rugged terrain of the site, we cannot allow hikers to have fires of any kind, as it would be virtually impossible to get people and equipment there in time to fight an escaped fire.

In the heyday of the granite industry, the Basin would have been ringing with the sound of the hammers, chisels, and "feathers and wedges" used at Barton's Quarry for splitting slabs into the smaller stones that were used to pave city streets all up and down the East Coast. Today we commonly call them cobblestones, but in their day they were called "Belgian blocks," and were used as more durable replacements for the rounder, softer, and smaller cobblestones that had originally been collected along the shores of rivers and bays. The uniform rectangular shape and size of the Belgian blocks allowed street-makers to lay them up much faster, in a tighter pattern that better withstood the heavier loads being pulled across them as the cities grew.

A walk along the loop trail at Barton's Quarry allows hikers to see all aspects of the granite operation—the raw ledge, the large slabs split from it using pneumatic drills and dynamite, and the small mountains of rejects and chips lying next to the piles of finished Belgian blocks. A sharp eye might even notice the rusted remains of the old steam boiler used to power the drills, now lying almost hidden by the regrown forest.

To visit this preserve, you'll need to approach by boat to some large seaside ledges



Aerial view of the Barton's Quarry Landing and Trail

about 300 yards NW of Basin Falls, as shown on the accompanying map. Deep water just off the ledges allows larger boats to anchor within fifty feet of the shore, and from there one can row or paddle in with a smaller boat. As you approach, watch for three vertical granite posts placed on the ledges—the best line of approach is just to the right of a line through all three posts. After hauling your kayak or dinghy above the high-tide line, look for the buoy tied to a wooden post at the top of the ledge that marks the trail head.

The loop trail starts at the water's edge and is best experienced by following it counterclockwise (SSE), as it follows the old road along which men would have driven teams of oxen pulling carts of granite to the pier, where barges and schooners could be loaded. As the trail ascends, its right-hand edge is lined with the hundreds of Belgian blocks left behind when the quarry closed; while on the left-hand side, you'll catch glimpses of the vertical splits in the wall of ledge, showing exactly where the quarrying stopped.



VLT summer intern Aryeh Lieber, at work on the Belgian block edging of the loop trail. Photo by Kerry Hardy.

Eventually the trail, still climbing, emerges onto open granite ledges that begin to hint at the panoramic views that lie ahead. When you see a five-foot-tall cairn of stones, you'll know you've reached the top—but the best view is yet to come. Turn left here, and a hundred-yard-long spur trail will take you out to a breathtaking overlook of Vinalhaven, Isle au Haut, Green's Island, Hurricane Island, and The Reach; all framed by the mature red spruce trees on either side of you. Sit on the soft, dry moss in the shade of the spruces and enjoy a picnic lunch while a sea breeze cools you and the ferries and lobster boats pass by far below—it's hard to leave this postcard-worthy spot, and you may even decide that a short nap is in order.



View looking south from the summit of Barton's Quarry. Photo by Kerry Hardy.

Returning to the cairn of rocks, you can now follow the trail steeply downhill through a mature spruce forest, following a deep, mossy gorge (which is actually a fault in the granite bedrock) back down towards the place where you started. As you reach the foot of the hill, you'll notice a large opening to your right (north)—this is the overgrown remains of what was once a farm pasture, and traces of the original fence wire can still be found here and there in the woods. A map of the island in 1869 shows a farmhouse located in this field, and the foundation is still visible—however, owing to high tick counts in the field and the proximity of neighbors, no trails pass near it.





Historical stone cairn marking the summit. Photo by Acacia Berg.

The Barton's Quarry Preserve is a great place to visit in August and September, when the sea breeze is balmy and the huckleberries are ripe. It offers a glimpse of Vinalhaven's granite-cutting past from a lofty vantage point where eagles and ospreys often fly by at eye level. By next spring, we will offer a brochure, and the trail will be posted on the VHtrails smartphone app.

-Kerry Hardy, Stewardship Coordinator



### YEAR-END GIVING

### The season of giving

It has been wonderful to see the increased trail use that began in 2020 continue as people stay connected to the outdoors. Our conservation efforts focus on protecting significant plant and wildlife habitats, water resources, and traditionally valued spaces that nourish our lives and our souls.

Our environmental education programs at Vinalhaven School inspire the next generation to become better stewards of the island we love, and the walks and talks program educates on topics such as geology, botany, forest management, aquaculture, and more.

VLT operates on a calendar year basis. By sending your gift by December 31, 2022, you can help ensure that we meet our goals for the year in order to make possible all that we do. Although gifts of all sizes are important and welcome, we are especially appreciative of leadership gifts of \$250 or more, which traditionally represent 80% of all funds raised.

You can also make a gift of appreciated securities; in addition to being able to claim a charitable income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the shares, you also avoid paying a capital gains tax on appreciation. You may donate by mail, by phone at 207-863-2543, or securely online at vinal-havenlandtrust.org/donate.

Thank you!

# **Honoring Our Volunteers**

VLT would like to thank all the incredible people who gave their time and energy in this past year. This year over 100 people volunteered over 300 hours, in addition to the many hours our Board members give to VLT! Please accept our apologies if we have inadvertently omitted your name.

#### **Committee Members**

Board members are active on all of our committees, which also include both seasonal and year-round community members. Dick Byrd, Louisa Ives and Preble Jaques lend their skills to the Investment Committee. Elise Stockly brings her expertise to the Development Committee, as does Sarah Forbes to the Communications Committee, and Pam Alley to the Stewardship Committee. Karen Gates was active on the Renewal of Accreditation task force.

#### **Annual Meeting**

Addison Ames, Chuck Gadzik, and the Vinalhaven Lions put up the tents for our annual meeting, Craig Jewell provided audio and video services, David Lawrence and Bill Alcorn tended the bar, Susie Lawrence and Carol Thompson lent us tablecloths, and Mike Mesko, Steve Rosen, and the Vinalhaven Fisherman's Co-op provided ice. Pete Jaques supported the staff in coordinating the event. Others that contributed in various ways include Dan Fergusson, Hal Holt, and Pam Kittredge.

#### Office Help

We are so grateful to those who come in when we call for help with mailings, editing and reviewing our newsletters, picking up materials from the printers, and other office assistance. Thanks to Alison Angel, Amy and Dave Calkins, Nancy Campbell, Colleen Conlan, Jeannie Curtiss, Claudia Dengler, Sarah Forbes, Karen Gates, Pam and Maddie Grumbach, Jeanie and Allan Hayes, Suzanne Heller, Ed Hirst and Pam Johnson, Sylvia Lacey, Susie Lawrence, Margaret Qualey, Sherry Rega, and Carol and Skip Thompson. Thanks to Susie Lawrence and her granddaughters for delivering membership packets to John McLeod in Perry Creek. And a huge shout out to John McLeod, the Mayor of Perry Creek, for sharing both his moorings in Perry Creek and information about VLT with the many boaters who overnight there.

#### **Boat Transportation**

Thanks to Steve Brock and Banner Moffat for assisting in fall monitoring transportation, and to Claudia Dengler and Brent Groce for providing rides for volunteers at the Barton's Quarry Trail Stewardship Day. Thank you to all who supported the popular Hurricane Island Trip.

#### **Trails**

Trail work volunteers include Brent Groce, Doug Fincham, Craig Jewell, Jeff Kilbreth, Jennifer Kimball, Norbert Leser, Kathy Perkins, Hugh Roth, Kendrick Simmons, Jennifer and Travis Walton, and students from Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership. Many thanks to our friends and partners at Vinalhaven Reads for regularly updating the books shared on the Story Trail at the Granite Island Preserve. A special thanks to Norbert Leser, who developed the popular VHtrails app, which keeps hikers on track even while not connected to the internet. The app has been widely used this sum-

mer with lots of kudos to Norbert.

#### Clean-ups

There was a cleanup at the Basin this spring, and Coastal Cleanups at Browns Island and Pocus Point in the fall. The volunteers who participated in these efforts were: Susan Bohm, Merry Boone, Steve Brock, Elizabeth Bunker, Tom Chamberlin, Jace Cooke, Claudia Dengler, Doug Fincham, Kirk Gentalen, Jeff Kilbeth, Sylvia Lacey, Norbert Leser, Lisa Lewis, Banner Moffat, Steve Rosen, and Anne and Kendrick Simmons. Javier Peñalosa gave his time and expertise finding and identifying patches of phragmites, an especially bad invasive, and Nate Downes helped Javier and VLT staff in the removal efforts.

#### Monitoring

For their invaluable assistance in making sure that the restrictions on VLT's properties under conservation protections are being observed, we would like to thank volunteer monitors Carol Baker, Glenn Bremer, Stephen Brock, Pam and James Grumbach, Hal Holt, Jamie Lowrey, Audrey Nichols, Herb Parsons, Anna Poe, and Marthena Webster.

#### Photos

Thank you Tammie Arcement, Alice Bissell, Emily Cohn, Dan Ganoza, Kirk Gentalen, Craig Jewell, Norbert Leser, Banner Moffat, Hannah Noyes, and Pat Paquet for providing such beautiful images of our preserves and the people and wildlife enjoying them.

#### **Walks and Talks**

Thanks go out to Merry Boone, Claudia Dengler, Kirk Gentalen, John Drury, Beth Gilford,



Janet Gohres, Phoebe Jekielek, George Kendrick, Susie Lawrence, Norbert Leser, Banner Moffat, Hannah Noyes, Amy Palmer, Javier Peñalosa, Maisie Richards, and the folks at Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership, Roberts Harbor Farm, and Fox Islands Electric Coop for contributing to a great season of walks. Bird walks were led by volunteers Kirk Gentalen, Pete Jaques, Suzette Jones, and Jay Manning, and a special thanks to Rick Morgan for organizing the leaders, and leading some himself.

#### Other

Taina Litwak developed and updated our preserve brochures, Phil Crossman and Fred Granger completed mainland errands, and Joe Marcus offered technical assistance. Banner Moffat repaired our storage room and kiosk, and installed track lighting in the office. Kevin Donovan kept Skoog Park nicely mowed. Thank you all!

Finally: We could not do this without the support of the Board of Directors. In addition to the time they spent fulfilling their Board duties, they, too, volunteered their time and skills for many of the opportunities above, including leading walks, monitoring properties, proofreading and editing, and sharing their wisdom and insights through their work on VLT's many committees.

#### **TRANSITIONS**

#### **New Board Members**

Victoria Brett, Hillary Bunker, and Claudia Dengler were unanimously elected to the board this July by the 200+ members who returned their ballots. Their bios can be found on our website. We're excited to welcome them to the VLT team and to have their perspectives on the Board.

#### **Outgoing Board Members**

Terming off after having served three full three-year terms on the Board of VLT, these board members were honored at annual meeting for their many valuable contributions to VLT:

For nine years, the VLT Board had access to Chuck Gadzik's prodigious store of knowledge, judgement, thoughtful opinions, and strong sense of community. He brought his strong natural resources background to help inform the management plans we have for each property we manage. He brought to our board deliberations his realistic, discerning, and professional input, along with wit, laughter and grace.

Bringing his warm personality and friend-raising skills to VLT, David Hyde excels at engaging people to feel connected to VLT. In 2017, he assumed the presidency, a role he served in for the next three years. During that time, he helped us expand our reach through more effective communications strategies, as well as being the driving force behind VLT's updated strategic plan completed in 2021.

What Board would not be grateful for someone who excels at Excel? Kevin Moore's skills with this app brought a historical perspective to our budgeting and finances, helping us hone where to allocate our resources, to ensure valuable programs had the support needed to make them effective. Pam Wetherbee was that board member one can email with a question at 6 a.m., knowing they will have a helpful and coherent answer within the next fifteen minutes, and usually much sooner than that. She served as VLT's treasurer for five years, working to make VLT's financial reporting clearer and more accessible. More recently, she chaired the Renewal of Accreditation team, which requires us to examine every aspect of our work to ensure it meets the standards of the independent Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Under her reliable, thorough, and clear-thinking guidance, a strong renewal application was submitted right on schedule.

Thank you all for your service to VLT!

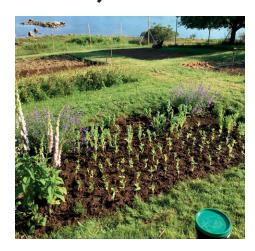
#### YOU BELONG HERE, TOO!

If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering with VLT, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're always thankful for community support, and when it comes to our office mailing gatherings, the more the merrier!

There are a variety of ways to contribute your time! Contact us at info@vinalhavenlandtrust.org to share your interests or to learn more about the many ways you can volunteer for VLT.



### The Boyden Farm/VLT Community Garden



The Boyden family and VLT have partnered to establish a Community Garden at the beautiful Boyden Farm. There will be several prepared beds available to community members in the spring, with preference given to gardeners who will utilize their plot from early spring until killing frost in fall. To learn more about this project, you can find the garden handbook and application on our website, under the resources tab at vinalhavenlandtrust.org. It's not too early to express your interest, so please reach out to info@vinalhavenlandtrust.org with any questions or to submit the application.

Photos by Rachel Noyes



# Vinalhaven Land Trust Gift Ideas

Trying to think of a gift for someone who has it all? How about a gift membership to VLT! To welcome them, we will send an informational packet and a photo card of a VLT preserve. You can also order a few select VLT items such as VLT mugs (\$15), caps (\$20), bucket hats (\$30), fleece vests (\$45), bags (\$25), and both photo and painted notecards (\$20). Call the office number (207-863-2543) or go to the website to order any of these items. Shipping and handling will be added to each order, and credit card payment will go through a secure credit card processor.

If you shop on Amazon.com, you can simultaneously support VLT. Just visit https://smile.amazon.com and select Vinalhaven Land Trust as the charitable organization to receive donations of .5% on your eligible purchases. There is no charge to you, and your existing account, wish lists, and wedding or baby registry will remain unchanged. It's an easy way to help VLT every time you shop!

# **Walks and Talks**

VLT's Walks and Talks is an environmental education program that runs year-round, with most events happening during the warmer summer months. This year, 14 knowledgeable and enthusiastic volunteers led 39 walks, with over 810 residents and visitors in attendance.

Each leader brings their own expertise to the program, and many have been leading walks on Vinalhaven's trails for numerous years, giving them a unique perspective on the island's natural world. This fall, walk leaders were asked to reflect on their experience and share their observations.

When asked what changes the leaders have observed, they noted patterns concerning the flora, fauna, and people of the island. A few specifics, paraphrased for brevity:

- At State Beach, increased storm activity in recent years has stripped away beach sediments to expose a paleo forest of stumps that are thought to date from 3500 years ago. That site now provides a great teaching example of climate change and sea level rise.
- Salt marsh migration: the erosion of the salt marsh seaward and its growth landward.

- More osprey, more eagles, more pogies (menhaden), more ticks, fewer mackerel, fewer flounder, fewer seagulls.
- More poison ivy, and less Northern White Cedar, due to deer pressure.
- When COVID arrived, many people found solace in the out-of-doors. Our preserves continue to provide a safe place to go and a welcome refuge.

When asked what they found most fun about leading a walk, getting to know the humans of Vinalhaven featured first. Some leaders shared their specific joys:

- Sharing an activity (building fairy houses) that I love with a younger group
- I like all of it, including the preparation, which takes more time than one might think.
- Meeting people who enjoy and appreciate nature.

When we asked if there is a walk or talk that they wish VLT would offer, our volunteers offered some great suggestions:

· A walk that explores the historic quarries and

explains just how the quarry workers managed to move all those enormous blocks and columns.

- More collaborations with the Historical Society and other organizations or individuals for more offerings exploring the history of Vinalhaven.
- More on lobstering, and the island's fishing culture.
- More information about the First People and pre-colonial life on the island.

Vinalhaven is a place of incredible beauty, wilderness and water. It is one of those special places on earth that attracts people who have a shared and exuberant appreciation of the natural world. How lucky we are.

Tremendous thanks to my co-chair, Jim Boone, and all of the leaders who took time out of their busy lives to prepare and lead the walks. We are already planning for events this winter and next year!

—Claudia Dengler, co-chair of the Walks and Talks Committee

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION UPDATE**

Since returning to school in September, Vinalhaven's students have been out on all kinds of educational outdoor adventures. Elementary students in grades K-3 have visited Story Trail and other preserves both during and after school on hikes led in collaboration with Partners in Island Education (PIE) and Tanglewood Learning Center. In October, 5th and 6th graders took a trip to Lincolnville to visit Tanglewood and participate in a variety of their onsite environmental education activities. The 8th graders successfully accomplished the annual Katahdin climb, and took part in many outdoor activities during their trip, including canoeing and fishing. Plans for other grades are in the works as well, all aiming to get students outdoors and engaged with the world around them.

Throughout the fall, the middle schoolers have been active in a VLT-sponsored project to revive the School Garden. Every week, each student is out in the Garden with me, engaged in lessons designed to use the space as a living laboratory where they can gain and apply educational and ecological knowledge while learning how to cultivate food. With

an emphasis on sustainable gardening practices and learning through observation and inquiry, the Garden is a space where students can problem solve and form a connection to the living world first-hand. Together we've explored life above and below ground, observing everything from plant growth to pray-

ing mantises and 'pollen pellets' on bee legs. Eating what we've grown gives students the opportunity to try new things, investigate using their senses, and talk about nutrition. Students have now harvested their last rainbow carrots and pumpkins and will soon be planning and designing their garden for the spring.

—Acacia Berg, Programs and Communications Coordinator

Photos: Middle school students in the School Garden, 8th graders on their Katahdin trip, and elementary students on a Story Trail adventure. Photos by Acacia Berg and Emily Cohn.





# President's Message

Just as the seasons change, so is the changing of the guard happening at VLT. By the time you read this newsletter, Andrea Hogan, our new executive director, will have been in the office for over a month, working with the staff to direct our land trust. You should have received her first letter appealing for your much-appreciated year-end support. If you have already given—thank you!

Andrea overlapped with Linnell Mather, our former executive director, for the month of October. Linnell will continue to be available to answer questions, but a lot of ground has been covered and we feel grateful to be in good hands moving forward. Echoing the sentiments conveyed at the Annual Meeting in July, we can't thank Linnell enough for her work over the past eight years as executive director, and for her 28 years in total, in many capacities at VLT.

You can read more about Andrea's background in this newsletter, and on behalf of the board, we are delighted to have her, and look forward to working with her in the months and years ahead. By our next newsletter, we will be looking ahead to the busy summer season. And so, the seasons change!

—Lee Campbell





Community Garden a garden cart for the A rototiller and

**TSIJ HSIW** 

Kerry Hardy, Stewardship Coordinator Sheri (Romer) Brock, Office Assistant Coordinator

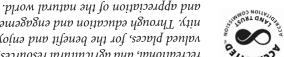
Acacia Berg, Programs and Communications Andrea Hogan, Executive Director

#### Staff

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Mark Tolette	Joshua Eckles
Yvonne Thomas	Claudia Dengler
Vice-President	Eric Davis
nisw2 dt9dszil3	Art Carpenter
Marjorie Stratton	President
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Сау Kendrick	Toria Brett
səupal lli8	Jim Boone

Board of Directors

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nity. Through education and engagement, VLT seeks to advance understanding valued places, for the denefit and enjoyment of the entire Vinalhaven commurecreational, and agricultural resources, including scenic and other traditionally Vinalhaven Land Trust conserves and stewards our island's important natural,