

## **Lassen Land and Trails Trust**

### **Information for people interested in becoming a board member**

The mission of the Lassen Land and Trails Trust is to conserve significant natural and agricultural areas and to promote and enhance a public trail system throughout Lassen County.

We are looking for board members that are passionate about the mission and feel comfortable taking part in fundraising, and look forward to acting as an ambassador that promotes the organization to friends, colleagues, and other contacts. They should be eager to use their professional skills to help oversee the organization, but must understand that their role is to focus on strategic issues while the staff handles management issues. Candidates should not feel pressured into joining the board. If they are not enthusiastic, it is unlikely they will do a good job.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

From our Bylaws, (Article 7): “The Board of Directors shall act as the governing entity of the corporation and shall be responsible for planning, organizing and execution of all activities and programs.”...”The primary purpose of the Board of Directors is to oversee, advise, and assist the staff in its operation and services provided to the general public.”...The Board ensures that the operations of the corporation remain fiscally viable by reviewing and approving the annual budget and ...periodic review of the corporation’s fiscal management.” “To the extent possible, the Board of Directors should be made up of individuals who represent a cross-section of the community at large.”

General Expectations:

- Become familiar with the organization’s mission, purposes, goals, policies, programs, services, strengths and needs.
- Prepare for and participate in monthly board meetings.
- Serve on or chair committees such as Trail, Conservation, Depot, Events.
- Serve in leadership positions or undertake special assignments willingly.
- Avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest
- Respect staff time. Request needed information through the Board or Executive Director.

All Board Members are volunteers. As in most organizations, the amount of time that any Board Member contributes to the organization varies.

We encourage that Board Members “spread the message” and promote LLTT. At the same time, we encourage careful “use of name”. Do not speak for the organization regarding support or opposition to particular projects if the Board as a whole has taken no action regarding the project or issue.

Board members support LLTT with membership and volunteer time. An annual gift according to personal means is optional.

Bring a sense of humor to the board’s deliberations!