

THE FRIENDS OF THE FARM AT HILLTOP, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2016-2017

Kacy Colston (*President*)

Kacy moved to Connecticut from California in 1977. She and her husband Tom built their dream house in West Suffield in 1989 where they currently reside with their 2 cats. Kacy holds an MA in Information Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a BA in Political Science from University of California at Sonoma. She was employed by Cigna (Connecticut General) as an IT Specialist and Project Manager until 2015. She enjoys reading and travel. She and Tom have been willing volunteers for years at Farm Fest.

Raymond “Ray” Wilcox (*Vice President*)

Retired aircraft power plant consultant for US Navy and major domestic and foreign carriers. Forty years of experience as a development engineer and program manager for Pratt and Whitney. Current member of the Inland Wetlands Conservation Commission; served as Treasurer from 1985-1989 and Chairman from 1990 to 1994. Current member of the Heritage Committee and Chairman of the open space sub committee. Chairman of the open space advisory committee; Served on the Regulation sub Committee; long-time coach of youth soccer and basketball. Suffield resident since 1972, Graduated from the University of Hartford with a degree in electronics. He is a founding member of FOFAH and as served as Vice President for several years. Ray acts as Clerk of the Works for construction projects; the Fire Escape on the barn, the rebuilding of the Garage and the restoration of the two houses.

Mark O’Hara (*Executive Vice President*)

Mark is an attorney and principal member of the law firm Blackburn & O'Hara, LLC. The firm represents and advises property insurance carriers in regard to coverage opinions, fraud and arson investigations, subrogation and related litigation. Prior to attending law school, Mark was an investigator for the District Attorney of New York where he served on a federal financial crimes task force investigating money laundering and narcotics operations in New York City. Mark also spent 10 years in the United States Army Reserve as an Intelligence Officer specializing in interrogation and counterintelligence investigations. Mark spent six years on the Zoning Board of Appeals in Suffield and currently serves on its Zoning and Planning Commission. He holds a bachelor degree from Fordham University and a law degree from Northeastern University. Mark enjoys making hard cider and maintains a small heirloom cider orchard in his back yard.

Eileen Moncrief (*Secretary*)

Over 30 year career in higher education administration and instruction. Responsible for development and administration of grant funded programs for community college and area high schools. A former member of the Suffield Board of Selectmen, served on various Boards and Commissions and civic organizations, including President of the League of Women Voters of Suffield. She is a founding member of the Suffield Observer. Holds a both undergraduate and a graduate degrees from the UVA with additional study at Georgetown U and Antioch College of Law. She was a Certified Therapist and a Crisis Intervention Worker. A life long interest in conservation and horticulture, Eileen grew herbs for restaurants and businesses in Washington, D.C area. After residing in Suffield for 30 years, Eileen and her husband now reside in Westport, MA. As a founding member of FOFAH, she is the incorporator and original Secretary for FOFAH and has written most of the organization’s grants. She has been on the team organizing Farm Fest Weekend since 2007 as well as being on the Harvest Dinner planning team. Eileen chairs the Education and Programs Committee.



Michael “Mike” Welch (*Treasurer*)

A native of Suffield, Mike is a Certified Public Accountant and has spent his entire career in public accounting. Currently, he is a partner at Pue, Chick, Leibowitz & Blezard, LLC. He has extensive experience in providing a wide variety of accounting, tax and financial management services for both individuals and businesses. Previously, he worked with Deloitte LLP in both Washington, DC and Boston. Mike has an undergraduate degree from Boston University, a law degree from Catholic University of America and a master of laws in taxation from Boston University School of Law. He is a member of various professional and civic organizations. Mike lives in Suffield with his wife Susan and their two children.

Anne Remington Banks

Lifelong resident of Suffield. Presently working as a Paralegal for the firm of Spellman and Kelly, LLC. Employed 1991-2007 as Administrative Secretary, the First Church of Christ, Congregational, with over 600 members. Served on several church committees, including Capital Campaign Committee. Currently Assistant Director of handbell choirs. Holds A.B. in Anthropology and Biological Sciences from Mount Holyoke College. She is a founding member of FOFAH and has served four years as one of the Co-chairs of Farm Fest Weekend. She also serves on the Public Relations & Marketing and Education & Programs committees.

Janet McKee Banks (*Past President*)

Licensed real estate agent 1983-2007 and has lived in Suffield since 1964. A founding member of FOFAH and former President is currently chairing the Marketing/PR/Outreach committee and the planning committee for the Harvest Dinner on Labor Day weekend. Currently, a member of the Suffield Heritage Committee and chair of its Commercial subcommittee. Served on the Regulation Review Advisory Committee which recommended revisions in the Zoning Regulations. Directs the adult and youth handbell choirs at the First Church of Christ, Congregational, and is presently on its Renewal Team. Previously served as a Deacon, on Prudential, Music and Property and Stewardship committees including co-chairing the 1999 \$1.0 million renovation project. Bachelor degree in Music Education and an M.S.W. from Washington University in St. Louis. Had 10+ years professional experience in psychotherapy and counseling before becoming a real estate professional.

Robin Bienemann

Robin Ann Bienemann is the founder of Crimson Rook, a CT professional services firm specializing in helping companies increase value through improved business processes and innovation. Ms. Bienemann has served in an executive capacity for companies with revenues as small as \$1M and as large as \$20B. At age 24, she founded Ocean Industries, an equipment manufacturer in NH. Prior to creating Crimson Rook, she was Senior Vice President with Blue Arc Corporation, a \$60M computer storage manufacturer in San Jose, CA. Ms. Bienemann received a BS from Springfield College and her MS as a Sloan Fellow at MIT. UConn's Schools of Engineering & Business recently tapped her to be their first Entrepreneur in Residence.

Christine R. Davidson (*Past Treasurer*)

Employed since 1973 by J. Dirats and Co., Inc., Westfield, Mass., as Chief Financial Officer and Administrator. Currently, serving as Treasurer of the Town of Suffield. She also served as Treasurer of the First Church of Christ, Congregational and Chaired church's 1999 Capital campaign successfully raising 130% of goal. Served on various nonprofit boards, on the Suffield Board of Education, the Suffield Board of Selectmen and many church committees including positions as Moderator, Deacon, and Trustee. Holds M.S. in Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Hartford. Christine lives in Suffield. She is a founding member of FOFAH, has organized and run the Silent Auction fundraiser at the Harvest Dinner on Labor Day weekend since 2006, is part of the planning team for the Dinner and has co-chaired the Farm Fest Weekend.

Roger Ives Jr.

Roger's family moved to Suffield in 1956. Roger graduated from Suffield High School in 1970. He was a 4-H member, showing dairy cows at fairs in Connecticut and at the Eastern States Exposition 4-H Dairy Show. Roger is a graduate of the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture. He was employed for thirty years at the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services and serves as president of the Connecticut State Employees Association Chapter 410 Retirees. Roger is also a member of the Suffield Heritage Committee. Roger was a volunteer doing landscaping at Hilltop Farm for three years before joining the FOFAH Board in 2012. He is the point person for the FOFAH Agriculture and Conservation Committee.

Todd L. Mervosh

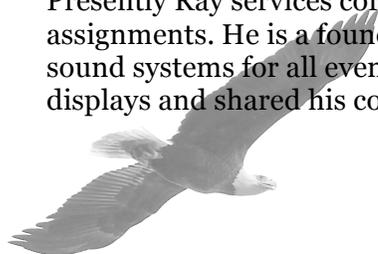
Todd is a plant scientist with expertise in the areas of weedy plants and weed control practices. A native of central Illinois, he earned a B.S. degree in Agricultural Sciences at the University of Illinois, an M.S. in Agronomy at the University of Wisconsin, and a Ph.D. in Agronomy at the University of Illinois. Todd moved to Connecticut in 1994 to begin work as a scientist at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) in Windsor. He worked at CAES for over 20 years, specializing in control strategies for weeds of agricultural fields and nurseries, and methods of managing invasive plants in non-croplands and natural areas. In 2015 Todd started a business operating under the names "TM Agricultural & Ecological Services, LLC" and "Flora Invasive Weeds Management, LLC". Todd and his wife Lynn have lived in Suffield since 1999, and their daughter Anna was born in 2000. In addition to serving as a FOFAH Director since 2013, Todd has been on the Board of the Suffield Land Conservancy for many years and served as SLC President from 2011 through 2013.

Howard "Howie" W. Orr, Jr.

Employed since 1970 at Kin-Therm, Inc., East Windsor, Connecticut. President since 1972; also a Director. Currently, Trustee of the First Church of Christ, Congregational and former member of the Property Committee which supervised the 1999 renovation. Previously served as a Deacon, Church Moderator, and member of the Stewardship, Prudential, and Capital Campaign committees. Member of the Suffield Economic Development Commission since 1985, current Chairman. Member CT Freemasons since 1976. Chairman, Masonicare Board of Trustees; Chairman, CT VNA; Chairman, Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital. Serves as incorporator, director or volunteer with many other nonprofit organizations and businesses. Lifelong resident of Suffield. Holds B.A in Economics and B.B.A. from Drury College, Springfield, Missouri; M.B.A. coursework at Western New England College. He is a founding member of FOFAH and has been an indefatigable worker on numerous aspects of maintenance (specializing in mowing). He chairs the Fundraising and Development Committee, has organized work days, and is coordinating infrastructure upgrades.

Raymond "Ray" Pioggia

Ray has worked as a freelance commercial photographer for the last 25 years and pursued a career as an artist creating original music, drawings, paintings, and fine art photography. He's lived in Suffield for the last 26 years and uses his skills to support historic preservation efforts. He designed and built (from recycled antique materials) the studio/gallery that he shares with his wife and partner, artist Laurie Tavino. He attended the Parsons School of Design, lived and worked in New York City for 3 years in the early 1980's. Presently Ray services corporate and industrial clients for annual reports, advertising, and documentary assignments. He is a founding member of FOFAH and has been the chief organizer and implementer of sound systems for all events. He has secured entertainment and provided time and materials to mount displays and shared his considerable expertise as a photographer on behalf of the organization.



Barbara “Bobbie” Rodgers (*Past Secretary*)

Barbara (Bobbie) Rodgers grew up in New Jersey, went to college in Pa, where she earned a BS in Biology. She moved to Ct in 1980 and Suffield has been her hometown since 1986. She works as a Research Assistant at the UConn Health Center. An avid gardener and conservationist, she plants gardens that benefit wildlife (birds, bees and butterflies) at home and at Hilltop, and teaches others how to. She has been a volunteer at Hilltop for many years and has been involved in Harvest Dinners, Farm Fest, Hendee Motorcycle Day, Ct. Open House Day and supervising/organizing work days for adult and youth volunteers. She has also added two demonstration gardens to the landscape; a Butterfly Garden and Pollinator Garden the Farm.

Deborah Santy

Deb is the founder of Innovation thru Partnerships. In her role as consultant Deb helps innovative businesses build stronger and broader relationships with large and small companies as well as colleges and universities. These collaborations enable stakeholders to develop customer and supplier relationships, find sources of talent, and connect with new products, materials and R&D. Prior to her current role, Deb was director of CI's Strategic Partnerships and Director of CI's Small Business Innovation Group, where she created and strengthened vital programs to support the state's small technology businesses. Deb has more than 20 years of experience leading startups and directing business change, technology integration and project management for some of the nation's largest insurance companies. She also founded “Communications Plus,” a successful business consulting firm serving Fortune 100 corporations and startup companies in the health care, pension, investment management, information systems, telecommunications and travel industries. Education B.A., Business Administration and Psychology, Elmira College, M.B.A., University of Hartford. Awards- 2007 National Tibbett's Award, Women of Innovation Award (Connecticut Technology Council).

Scott A. Wheeler (*Past Secretary*)

Scott is currently an insurance fraud investigator and an active member of the Agawam (MA) Lions Club since 1999. He has served on the Lions Club board since 2003 and has chaired several fundraising committees, including their project at the Eastern States Exposition. He also has experience as a banquet coordinator. Scott holds a bachelor's degree from Charter Oak State College. He lives in Suffield. He is an active work day volunteer taking on numerous jobs and has been the logistics coordinator for Farm Fest weekend. He has also co-chaired the Harvest Dinner event for the last several years.



Former Board Members

Megan Hastings *(retired from Board in 2016)*

Megan is a life long Suffield resident, after graduating from Suffield High in 1999 she became a full time employee on her parents farm. She is now actively engaged in running the farm. Hastings Farm is currently milking about 120 cows, and bottles their own milk in addition to making cheese and yogurt. They also have a small herd of beef cattle and sell natural beef to and expanding market. The Hastings Farm is has been designated a Dairy Farm of Distinction and is protected from development a under the Farmland Preservation program. Megan was successful in obtaining a substantial grant from the State of Connecticut to expand their operations.

David J. Rockwell *(retired from Board in 2015)*

Dave grew up in West Hartford and has been a resident of Suffield since 1964. A graduate of Suffield Academy in 1958, he is a faculty member at the Academy finishing his 49th year in 2013. The Chair of the History Department for twenty years, he is presently Chair of the Leadership Department. Dave holds a B.S. in Education and a Master of Arts in History from Emporia (KS) State University and a Certificate of Advance Studies from Wesleyan University. He served for several years on the Suffield Conservation Commission. A member of The Sierra Club, Appalachian Mountain Club, The Maine Island Trail Association and the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association, he has a life long interest in environmental issues. Dave is also a graduate of the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School and the National Outdoor Leadership School. He also directs Suffield Academy's Outdoor Leadership program S.O.L.O. Leadership classes at the Academy have worked on several projects over the years including: trail work at Sunrise Park, building benches for FOFAH and mentoring in the local schools.

Thomas “Tom” Wardell *(Past President – Retired from the board in 2014)*

Tom has worked in engineering and project management for more than 40 years, and has expertise in steam generation. He also has experience in technical and commercial claims avoidance, and construction planning and execution. He has served on the Suffield Public Works Commission and was its chair. He also served on the Suffield library building committee and the Suffield High School building committee. He is active at the First Church of Christ, Congregational, where he is presently Moderator, was on the property and renovation committee from 1995-2001. Undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from Indiana Institute of Technology. Long-time resident of Suffield. Tom came on the FOFAH Board in 2008 and was an active volunteer at the farm before that. In addition to serving presently as President had is coordinating the construction of an office on the upper level of the barn.

Judith “Judy” C. Pfunder *(Past Secretary - retired from the board in 2013)*

A Connecticut native who lived in NYC for 37 years. Her last place of employment was The Metropolitan Museum of Art where she worked for 21 years in merchandising. She is currently unemployed. Her grandfather and father were tobacco farmers. She enjoys Acadia National Park and oxen pulls, among other things. B.A. History of Art from Finch College in New York City. Judy lives in Suffield. She is a founding member of FOFAH, became Secretary in 2010 and has managed the FOFAH “store” at Farm Fest and other events for years and serves on the Marketing/PR/Outreach committee.

Eleanor “Ellie” Butler Binns *(Retired from Board in 2011)*

Twenty years experience in commercial lighting industry. Previously small business owner in plumbing, heating and solar hot water systems. Resident of Suffield since 1976. Former member of Zoning Board of Appeals and the Conservation Commission. Restored an older home in Suffield and an avid gardener. Former member of the Tobacco Valley Visitors' Bureau. Holds M.S. in Administration from Springfield College. Scott lives in Suffield. Ellie is a founding member of FOFAH and has been the Volunteer Coordinator since the beginning. She spearheaded the planning for the Hendee Day celebration in 2009 and will do it again in 2011 and serves on the Marketing/PR/Outreach Committee.

John Donahue *(Retired from Board in 2011)*

John is an engineer with expertise in fuel cell technology and cell stack start-ups. He has worked in the field of engineering since 1974 and holds several patents. He currently serves on the Suffield Alternative Energy Committee and previously served as co-chair of the Government Relations/Public Information Committee for the New England Region Operating Board of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). He has experience with codes and standards and project management. John holds both Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from the University of Massachusetts. John resides in Suffield. He came onto the FOFAH board in 2008 and has been active in issues of fire code compliance and served on the Hendee Day Planning Team for 2 years.

John G. Smith IV *(Retired from Board in 2011)*

Presently is Owner and President of White Light Video Systems, LLC, specializing in web and graphic layout and design, photography, video and 3D animation production and editing. A former member of the Suffield Board of Selectmen, Suffield Police Commission, Zoning & Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, past President of Suffield Firemen's Association and Chairman of the Board of the North Central CT Mental Health Services, Inc.. He is a retired Lieutenant with the Suffield Fire Dept. with 17 years of service. He is an Ordained Minister, receiving his M.Div. from Hartford Seminary Foundation, was a Certified Marriage & Family Therapist and was a Director of Outpatient Therapy at the Eagleville Hospital and Rehabilitation Center in Norristown, PA. He is a founding member of FOFAH and has served as chairman of the Agriculture Committee spending hours of time improving the fields and open space and been the liaison with the Conservation Commission. He has also been the liaison for the WHIP contract with the Dept. of Agriculture in addition to being on the Harvest Dinner planning team and being the chief procurer of farm products from our Partner Farmers. He has also used his talent in providing photography and website skills from the beginning. He raised two active 4H members and has done small farming (rabbits, sheep, goats, pigs, steers, chickens, capons, turkeys). John lives in Suffield and New Hampshire.

Laura S. Dillman *(Past President – Retired from the board in 2008)*

Laura served as president of the Board of Directors of FOFAH from its founding in 2002 until 2008. Her professional and volunteer experience with for profit and nonprofit corporations includes: consultant in management, marketing and training for clients such as Texaco, Inc., and UCONN Health Center; chief operating officer for custom publishing company in Hartford; product manager, General Foods Corporation; blood donor recruitment supervisor, American Red Cross; marketing instructor, Western New England College; first Development Director (volunteer), Enfield Montessori School. She is an active member the Suffield Garden Club and co-chairs its Conservation Committee. In 2006 she received a Tribute Award from the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut for her work in conservation. Laura holds an MBA degree from Cornell University and is a Certified Master Gardener.

Paula Burke Hodge *(Retired from Board in 2008)*

Paula has worked at Vacuum Deposited Coating, Inc., East Granby, CT since 1978 as a Vacuum Cadmium Metal Coater and took ownership of the company in 1995. She has lived in Suffield since 1985 and has been very active as a community volunteer. Member of the Friends of Suffield for ten years, she has served on the board as Membership chair and Secretary. She has also served on Suffield Relay for Life Planning Committee; Suffield Veterans Memorial Committee; Suffield Athletic Booster Club and past President of Suffield Safe Parties. For three years she was a parent advisor of the Suffield Lacrosse Farm Team and was instrumental in making the team a High School Sport. She is a founding member of the Suffield Observer. As Chairman of the Program Committee for FOFAH, her duties included organizing & managing events including the Annual Farm Fest Labor Day Weekend

