



BACT's new team includes (from left) Navraaz Basati, David Holman, Julie Linnekin, Melissa Kinast, and Kat Gerdts.

## Barrington Area Conservation Trust Welcomes Its New Leadership Team

**B**ARRINGTON AREA Conservation Trust celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and they are proud to introduce the newest members of our team. Over the years, BACT staff has led the Trust through preserving more than 500 acres of land. This includes five nature preserves, 10 conservation easements as well as protecting several Heritage Corridor Scenic Byways.

Melissa Kinast joins BACT this summer as the new Executive Director. A North Barrington resident, Kinast has over five years of experience in a director position within a not-for-profit organization, along with professional experience and education largely focused on land use, public policy, and management. Additionally, she brings a high level of enthusiasm for social and environmental causes and community development. Kinast has extensive experience as a real estate professional where she has had several opportunities to study

and implement best practices for community planning and development. "I know there is nearly nothing more important than the preservation of open space in the lasting health and viability of a community," Kinast said.

Earlier this year, Kat Gerdts joined BACT as Administrative Director. Gerdts brings years of business management experience to the organization. She is also a passionate volunteer with a variety of local conservation and sustainability groups, including Go Green Barrington.

David Holman is acting Land Conservation Coordinator whose expertise in the strategic development of land conservation easement and trusts is guiding preserve maintenance contractors as well as providing a knowledgeable resource for the BACT team.

Event Coordinator Julie Linnekin has designed events for organizations in Barrington since 2014 including Tartans for the Trust in 2019. She is



BACT Executive Director Melissa Kinast.

excited to rejoin BACT for the 20th Anniversary Tartans for the Trust event planning and more.

Navraaz Basati is BACT's Conservation@School Coordinator. Basati has mentored the Summer Internship Program since its inception—this is the Program's 7th year of introducing local area high school students to conservation and the Trust's mission. She will also launch BACT's podcast series in 2021—stay tuned! 