

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – October 4, 2021

Board members: Sabina Ernst, Phyl Newbeck, Livy Strong, and Hilaire Thomas

Livy Strong called the meeting to order at 7:05.

1. Review of minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of September, 2021 were approved.

2. Financial Report

In September we took in \$2,590 in membership fees. We spent a total of \$3,785 which consisted of \$1,000 transferred to the Jericho Underhill Park District after being misdirected to us, \$795 in Kikas Valley Farm property taxes, \$330 in legal fees, \$565 to receive our bulk mailing postage stamp, \$103 for printing postcards for the fall wildflower walk, \$500 for digging up the culvert at Wolfrun Natural Area and \$492 for Wolfrun property taxes.

Our total assets are \$1,191,264 consisting of \$985,487 in fixed assets, \$91,662 at New England Federal Credit Union, \$46,192 in our money market account, \$19,092 in our checking account, \$28,568 in Schwab investments, \$11,064 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$9,197 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

Our 990 tax form has been sent back to the accountant after being reviewed and approved by all board members.

3. Membership/fundraising

The fall newsletter has brought in several membership renewals. Livy will be writing the membership renewal letter at the end of October or early November.

4. Land Stewardship

John Koier was unable to attend but reported that the Intervale Conservation folks made their last barberry removal trip to Kikas Valley Farm. The culvert at Wolfrun had to be cleaned out again by Chris Wells to the tune of \$500 thanks to persistent and “highly motivated” beaver activity. Chris has suggested that we trap the beavers since relocating them is illegal. An exclusion fence might be a possibility. An expert has told us that this is not optimal beaver habitat so there’s a chance they may not stay for the winter.

Sabina went to an event at Nordic Farms in Charlotte and talked a bit about our land trust. She said there were probably 20 adults from a variety of groups including the Charlotte Land Trust and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, and a pack of cub scouts who were interested in bird banding and other activity.

5. Land projects

Mobbs Farm is moving along. The Jericho Conservation Commission will meet with the Jericho Select Board this week to remind them of the criteria for use of the Conservation Reserve Fund. Livy has also spoken to them about this, as has the Mobbs Committee. Livy spoke to Bob Heiser of VLT about Mobbs and he said they have had some problems reading the survey map so it is taking longer than usual.

The Jericho Underhill Park District may need as much as \$300,000 to replace the bridge at Mills Riverside Park.

6. Publicity

Livy is trying to keep our Facebook page active and asked folks to send any photos that we can use. She is also trying to update our Instagram page.

JULT invited Essex Art League members to submit paintings that reflect the properties that we have conserved. Nearly 20 artists took on the challenge and their work is displayed at the Jericho Town Hall. Livy will bring our display board there.

Livy sent 140 newsletters to people who moved to Jericho in 2020 and 2021.

7. Community news

The Jericho and Underhill Planning Commissions will be having a joint meeting this week to talk about – among other things – natural resources.

8. Any other business

VLT has a new Land and Lives Award and Livy is going to be the first recipient. The award will be given at their annual meeting on October 14 which will be held via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46

Respectfully submitted,
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary