

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – April 4, 2022

Board members present: John Koier, Michael Lazorchak, Phyl Newbeck, Lisa Paone, Livy Strong, and Hilaire Thomas

Guest: Diana Dunn

Livy Strong called the meeting to order at 7:01.

1. Review of minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of April 2022 were approved.

2. Financial Report

In April we took in \$16,997 consisting of \$13,507 in memberships, \$3,469 in contributions for the Davis Farm, and \$123 for Riverside Meadow. We spent \$367 with \$243 for printing, \$89 for postage, and \$26 for office supplies.

Our total assets are \$1,425,149 consisting of \$1,185,502 in fixed assets, \$92,415 at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,199 in our money market account, \$87,074 in our checking account, \$28,571 in Schwab investments, \$11,188 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$9,197 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

- 3 Diana's Membership Charts

Hilaire and Diana have been working on documenting how Hilaire accesses our financial information. Diana is now able to work as Hilaire's backup, if necessary, using the Access database. Diana provided three charts on our membership. One showed our membership per year and Diana indicated what events during those years might have spurred membership such as land acquisitions or particular fundraisers. Other charts showed how long people have been members.

Another chart showed the growth in membership through PayPal which was used quite a bit for special projects. Diana said the PayPal figures aren't accurate timewise. Our old account was under John Schroeder's name and social security number so Diana opened a new account for us using our EIN. PayPal holds funds for 21 days because it appears that we were providing a product rather than a service. This was done because we need addresses for our newsletters. Diana suggested eliminating the lower membership fees for seniors. If they use PayPal they get hit with a higher fee. On average, each member gives \$93 annually.

Diana created some pie charts regarding our income and expenses. The good news is that only 6% of our expenses are for administration and oversight, 15% for non-recurring costs, and 17% for fundraising which includes web hosting and newsletters.

Diana said our current net worth is \$223,260 but after the money committed to the Davis and Mobbs properties, it is down to \$150,260. She created a five-year cashflow outlook based on 250

members in 2022 with the assumption that a drop to 200 in the next five years will bring in \$75,000. Our five-year expense figure, based on 2021, is \$196,000 (not including inflation but working on the assumption that we'll be able to reduce the property taxes currently being levied on Riverside Meadow). That will drop our net worth to \$52,805 without any targeted fundraising so we may need to do some work to get those numbers up.

Diana noted that using Mailchimp has made it easier to remind people to renew their membership. Roughly half of our members have been with us since we started although it is possible that they've missed a year or two. One place where we've had some drop-off is from folks we got from mailing to the Grand List.

4 Land stewardship

John is still waiting to hear back from Eileen Powers of USDA for the CREP stream bank work which he hopes will be finalized in May. He is also hoping to walk Paul Mazza's land with Danny Peet once his ankle has healed in late May or early June.

John, Livy, Lisa, and Joanna Carpenter walked around the cairns at Wolfrun Natural Area with Don Stevens, the chief of the Nulhegan band of the Abenaki tribe. John had to postpone a walk with the Jericho Trails Committee but will be rescheduling shortly.

The board discussed asking the Trails Committee not to put a kiosk at Wolfrun Natural Area but to put it at Kikas Valley Farm instead.

We may not use the Intervale for invasive removal this year but we will spray.

5 Land project updates

We are closing on Mobbs Farm on May 12 at 10:00 at Jericho Town Hall. There will probably be a community-wide celebration this summer.

Livy had no updates on the Davis Farm, but we have already raised our \$50,000 without resorting to town funding.

6 Events

Livy would like to schedule a cairns walk in the fall. Parking is a bit more of an issue but hopefully people will be willing to walk the extra distance.

Our wildflower walk will be held on May 7 at Mills Riverside Park and will be led by Michele Tulis. Diana provided some tri-fold brochures with pictures of the flowers they'll see. Saturday will also be Green Up Day at Mills Riverside Park. The library presentation with Evergreen Erb is the following Thursday and the walk will be the following Saturday at 7 am. The library is registering people for the bird walk and slide show.

Livy would like to try to have our annual meeting in August at the pavilion with the Community Center as a back-up for bad weather.

Lisa has talked to the youth librarian, Abbey Pasquence, at Deborah Rawson Memorial Library and there will probably be events at Mills Riverside Park that we can partner with. One option Lisa presented is a youth bird walk or youth flower walk for elementary school students. Sabina suggested having these things for grades 3 and up. She has experience working with third graders. Another option is a fall leaf art workshop and there is a chance Chris Gluck can help. Abbey mentioned a book called Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert which might be part of the presentation. Allaire Diamon has also volunteered to do something with kids and Lisa is thinking about reaching out to Bernie Paquette.

Lisa would like to make a little land trust brochure to put in the schools. We have an old brochure that has not been updated since Kikas Valley Farm.

We will have a pot luck barbecue at Sabina's house on July 11th.

7 Any other business

Livy, Sabina, and Lisa went to a land trust workshop which dealt with a lot of administrative issues. A lot of the land trusts in attendance are not accredited although there apparently is a "light version" of accreditation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20

Respectfully submitted,
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary