

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – July 10, 2023

Board members present via Zoom: John Connell, John Koier, Phyl Newbeck, Lisa Paone, and Livy Strong

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:02

1. Review of minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of June 2023 were approved.

2. Financial report and update on bookkeeper

Lisa provided the financial report prior to the meeting. Our total assets are \$1,418,481 consisting of \$1,187,502 in fixed assets, \$4,956 (one-year term) and \$88,223 (two-year term) at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,203 in our money market account, \$77,323 in our checking account, \$28,932 in Schwab investments, \$11,442 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$8,896 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

In June we took in \$24,801 consisting of \$10,833 in membership donations, (\$2,928 through Stripe) and \$13,293 in donations for the Hunt property (\$416 through Stripe). Our expenses included \$600 for the Davis Farm reappraisal, \$1,135 for insurance, and \$30 for subscriptions. Lisa said she has benefited from the tutoring she has been receiving and may eventually be able to do all the recordkeeping without assistance.

3. Membership and fundraising

Anyone making a donation to The Farm Upstream who isn't a member will become a member for the year. Livy hopes that will get us some new members.

4. Land stewardship

Bolton did their reappraisal and Gateway is now worth considerably more than it was ten years ago.

John Koier met with Eileen Powers, Agricultural Program Specialist at the Vermont Farm Service Agency State Office on June 16 to finalize the abundant paperwork required to launch the CREP administered streamside planting at the 10-Acre Pasture at Kikas Valley Farm. It's been more than two years since we started this process and, pending approval from the regional administrators, it will be accomplished next spring.

Will Dunkley completed 35 hours of barberry spraying last week on Kikas Valley Farm. We can expect an invoice for roughly \$4,000.00 from Trout Lilly Forestry Services, LLC for this continuing work.

We don't know for certain if the cows will come back to Skunk Hollow Meadow. New electrical fencing is needed. Phyl stated that she might be willing to contribute funds for the fencing but only if it's certain that the cows will be returning.

Livy and John Connell will need to collect the temporary land conservation signs and then put them back up in August or September.

We have some boundary signs in places that aren't actually on boundaries, so Livy is looking at purchasing some informational signs to replace them. The Board agreed that we should go forward on that.

Moose Pond is higher than Livy has ever seen it because of the beaver dam. The beavers are still working around it but haven't done any damage. It is hard to walk around the pond because of the dam.

5. Events

We will have a presence at the Jericho Farmers' Market on July 27, a fern walk on August 5, a fall wildflower walk on September 3, and our annual meeting on October 2. Livy said that these are annual events and are always well received. They are mostly attended by long-time members. Our next meeting will be a barbecue at Sabina's house on August 7.

6. Community news

Underhill will have a Food Truck event on July 21.

The draft of the Jericho Town Plan draft will be reviewed by the Planning Commission on July 18 and committee chairs are invited to give feedback at their meeting on August 1.

7. Strategic plan

Livy will write a draft and the board can change it, if needed.

The meeting concluded at 7:30

Respectfully submitted,
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary